

Mackay plans shake-up for legal system

Bar monopoly would go, house buying simpler

● The Lord Chancellor announced the speeding up of radical reforms of the legal profession and its monopolies

● The Bar's monopoly of advocacy rights in the higher courts is likely to end

● A Green Paper will be issued in the new year to regulate how the profession works in the court and outside it in such areas as house-buying

● The Law Society was shocked and surprised, but Mr Robert Johnson, chairman of the Bar, welcomed the Lord Chancellor's moves

By Francis Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

Plans for a shake-up of the legal profession and its monopolies, likely to mean the most far-reaching changes this century, are to be brought forward by the Lord Chancellor in a Green Paper in the new year.

The Green Paper, on which the Government intends to move extremely swiftly, will involve fundamental reform of the profession's work both in the courts and outside it in areas such as the house-buying market.

The proposals could mean an end to the Bar's monopoly of advocacy rights in the higher courts; solicitors becoming eligible for the High Court bench; and opening up

of the house-buying market by removal of the ban on banks and building societies doing conveyancing.

It could also result in an end to the solicitors' probate monopoly and mixed practices between professionals.

The Green Paper was announced yesterday by Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the Lord Chancellor, on the anniversary of his first year in office.

Unveiling the Government plan, Lord Mackay said: "It is worth considering whether adequate safeguards can be devised for building societies to do conveyancing for their own customers."

Other key areas up for reform include contingency fees (by which lawyers would be paid on a no-win, no-fee

The changes heralded "a bigger change for the legal profession and its work" than those from the Marre Committee or the Royal Commission on Legal Services in 1979, he said.

The Law Society welcomed the opportunity to comment on them and would be responding within the time limits.

Mr Robert Johnson, QC, chairman of the Bar, also welcomed the Government's statement.

"It must be sensible to first identify the particular tasks, the needs to be performed, and the professional qualifications they require, and then to achieve the best possible match between the task and the lawyer."

The Green Paper will look at "the fundamental issues of what activities require the services of lawyers and on what basis such services ought ideally to be provided".

Contingency fees and "corporate conveyancing" — conveyancing by the big financial institutions — are to be the subject of separate consultation papers.

The proposals are far-reaching. As well as the eligibility of solicitors for the High Court bench, the Green Paper will look at the principles of education, qualification, and training and standards for lawyers. It will look at all monopolies of work and of a separate Bar.

"There is a case for considering change," Lord Mackay said. "I am conscious from time to time of the public having complaints about the legal system, about delays and other aspects, and I believe it is right to see whether these complaints can be met by changes."

The Green Paper, he added, amounted to "considering the case for change".

The solicitors' branch of the profession has failed to reach any decision on whether to allow mixed practices despite constant pressure to do so from Sir Gordon Borrie, Director General of Fair Trading.

Yesterday the Lord Chancellor indicated he thought the rules preventing such practices should be lifted. "It may be that many people would not want to take part in multidisciplinary practices but that subject to appropriate safeguards, these should not be outlawed altogether."

Mr Gaskell said he was continuing on page 28, col 1

£800,000 award after seven-year fight



Malinka Wright, seen with her mother, Mrs Nicola Wright, won £800,000 agreed damages against two health authorities yesterday after a seven-year fight by her parents to prove she had been given the wrong medication. Aged

15, she now has a mental age of six months. The High Court in London awarded the damages after hearing that Malinka, from St Ives, Cambridgeshire, was given a gallon more intravenous fluid than she needed when her appendix was removed, resulting in irreversible brain damage. Malinka had an above average school record and enjoyed dancing before the operation. Now she is mute, suffers 30 to 40 epileptic fits a week and cannot dress or feed herself. (Report, page 3)

Tears in court at Heysel videos

From Paul Valley
Brussels

Relatives of those who died and were injured in the Heysel Stadium riot wept in court yesterday as a harrowing sequence of video film was shown of the melee in which 39 people were crushed to death.

Earlier 11 defence lawyers had stalked angrily from the court after the judge, M Pierre Verlynde, declined to rule in their favour over the calling of witnesses and the availability of the 48,000-page dossier of evidence against the 24 Liverpool fans who face charges of manslaughter.

The lawyers returned later with a new demand, that the entire dossier should be read out in court, a process which at present rates of progress could take up to a year.

Video clips from TV companies from Belgium and Luxembourg and police surveillance film were shown to the court for more than one hour.

Throughout the day, Mme Marie-Jeanne Andries, whose husband Salvi died in the stampede to escape the marauding fans, kept her eyes fixed to one of the court's six TV screens. She wept constantly.

The episodes shown included scenes of rowdy and drunken behaviour by Liverpool fans in the streets of Brussels before the match and sequences of the violent behaviour of Juventus fans in the stadium before the match when they tore down crowd control fences and pelted the police with broken railings.

Other film showed repeated attacks by waves of Liverpool fans across the terraces of Z block towards Italian fans, and later police, who made attempts to fight back.

The most gruesome film then showed how thousands of fans fleeing the fighting were funnelled towards the corner of the block. Many scrambled to safety by crawling.

Continued on page 28, col 2

Major settles disputes within £3 billion overspending limit

By Philip Webster, Chief Political Correspondent

The Treasury has settled all its main disputes with government spending departments and is believed to have kept within its self-imposed limit of a £3 billion overshoot on next year's spending total.

But Mr John Moore, the Secretary of State for Social Services, is expected to win considerably less in additional resources for family credit and income support than the £130 million the Treasury will save by freezing child benefit.

For the second year running, Mr John Major, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, has avoided calling in the Star Chamber of ministers to arbitrate on controversial funding issues.

The chamber, chaired by Mr Cecil Parkinson, has not yet been stood down and is expected to hold a formal meeting to examine the outcome of meetings between Mr Major and the spending ministers, but although some

spending issues are still unresolved, it will have little or nothing in the way of substantive issues to deal with. Next year's planned total for

Parliamentary... 12
... 17
... 17

Public spending of £167 billion is expected to be exceeded by between £2 billion and £3 billion.

Ministers originally overbid by between £9 billion and £10 billion, the contingency reserve will be used to meet £3.5 billion of expenditure that has already been committed.

Although there are still some spending details to be sorted out — notably Mr Moore's budget and the final settlement with Mr George Younger, the Secretary of State for Defence, who is understood to have won an extra £800 million in funding for procurement projects —

government sources said yesterday that they were not expected to go to the Star Chamber.

The chamber's lack of business is attributed in Whitehall variously to the dexterity of Mr Major, who has emerged from the spending round unscathed, the belief of ministers that they would get little change out of Mr Parkinson's court, and the desire of some ministers not to let Mr Parkinson take the credit for months of hard work.

But it became clear yesterday, as Conservative MPs returned to Westminster from their constituencies, that one of the decisions taken during the round of talks — the freezing for the second successive year of child benefit — will cause the Government considerable trouble with its backbenchers.

Some Conservative MPs are expected to make their anxieties known in today's

Commons debate on the economy. Others are awaiting confirmation of the decision in the annual benefit upratings statement.

Their concern will be fuelled by the disclosure that Mr Moore is thought likely to win far less for means-tested child support than the Treasury will gain from freezing child benefit. The sum is thought to be under £100 million.

Up to 30 Conservative MPs are thought likely to vote against the freezing of child benefit when an opportunity arises.

Mr Timothy Raison, MP for Aylesbury and one of the leading campaigners on child benefit, urged the Government to think again yesterday. Mr Robert McCrindle, MP for Brentwood and Ongar, said that many MPs who had given the Government the benefit of the doubt when it froze child benefit last year would not do so again.

£274,000

Portfolio PLUS Accumulator

● Nobody claimed yesterday's £4,000 daily prize, so the Portfolio Accumulator rises to £274,000. There is another chance to win £4,000 today.

● Game: page 35

Johnson is banned

Charlie Francis, the coach of Ben Johnson, the disgraced world champion sprinter, was suspended indefinitely by the Canadian athletics federation. At the same time Johnson was, as expected, banned from competition for two years.

Johnson left the Seoul Olympics in disgrace after using anabolic steroids. A two-year ban is the minimum for athletes who fail drug tests under International Amateur Athletic Federation rules. Report, page 56

Piggott under investigation

The Inland Revenue has confirmed that it was still investigating the affairs of Lester Piggott, who returned home yesterday after spending just over a year in jail for tax fraud. Since the former champion jockey's trial, officials have continued inquiries on matters not included in the case. Tax queries, page 3

TIMES FOCUS

Italy is in the throes of preparing for the 1992 European single market. A 10-page Special Report examines the changes. Pages 39-48

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Food giant is target of biggest-ever takeover

From Bailey Morris, Washington

The biggest takeover bid in history has been launched on Wall Street for RJR Nabisco Inc, the American food and tobacco giant. The bid, valued at more than \$21 billion (£12 billion), came from Kohlberg Kravis Roberts, a Wall Street investment company.

Its \$90-a-share bid easily topped the \$17.6 billion offer for Nabisco proposed last

week by a senior management group led by Mr F Ross Johnson, RJR's president and chief executive.

In another massive US bid, Kraft rejected as inadequate the \$11.5 billion takeover offer from Philip Morris. There was speculation yesterday that a British company could join in the bidding. Nabisco bid, page 29

Briton dies on Crete in flash flood

By Mario Modiano and Andrew Morgan

A British tourist drowned and another was missing last night after 23 hikers were caught in a flash flood at a Crete beauty spot.

The dead man was named as Mr John Graham, aged 41, from London, and the missing hiker as Mr Giles Hill, aged 25, from Portsmouth. They were hiking through the 11-mile Samaria Gorge in western Crete, which is known to be dangerous in October, when floods occur after rain.

It is the second recent accident in Greece involving Britons. Last week, the cruise ship Jupiter sank off Piraeus, with 475 Britons aboard. Crete police said yesterday that 284 foreign tourists from several groups started the arduous walk. Most were turned back by patrols because of imminent bad weather, but the 23 continued.

'Lebanese courier linked to America'

From Roger Boyes, Rome

A Middle Eastern woman, arrested in Milan with three photographs of United States hostages, secret documents, 50 grams of heroin and \$1,000 in counterfeit currency, was acting as a courier between Lebanese kidnappers and a US organization, according to senior Italian police officers yesterday.

Mrs Aline Ibrahim Rizkallah, aged 36, was arrested on Thursday afternoon in Milan airport after getting off a Beirut flight. The photographs in her bag were of Mr Alann Steen, Mr Terry Anderson and Dr Thomas Sutherland. One of the documents was a letter, apparently from Mr Steen.

Other documents were in code and addressed to a known collaborator of the Italian secret police, Signor Aldo Anghessa.

Signor Anghessa, aged 44, a Swiss-Italian businessman,

has been implicated in several recent Middle Eastern arms scandals, and has in the past co-operated with the US Drug Enforcement Agency.

Dr Michele Serra, the head of the anti-terrorist squad in Milan, said yesterday: "Anghessa was acting as a go-between between two parties, one of whom was a Lebanese organization."

The other was an unspecified US organization, he said. Dr Serra told reporters he was still trying to determine how far Signor Anghessa was involved in serious negotiations, and how far it was a pretence.

Digos, the Italian counter espionage service, interrogated Signor Anghessa for 10 hours at the weekend, to try to discover who authorized him to start such talks.

"It is a puffed soufflé," Continued on page 28, col 6

Yesterday's high-tech is today's museum piece

By Sam Kiley
Universities Reporter

It may be some time before the London auction houses issue catalogues of "late twentieth century calculators" but the little miracles of mathematics which less than 20 years ago were at the forefront of new technology have already become antiquities worthy of exhibition in one of the country's leading science museums.

A collection of calculators (circa 1975 - 1987) has been donated to the Whipple Museum, part of Cambridge University, and is on display in glass cabinets.

The mini-computers range from early Sinclair devices to a Hewlett Packard model used by NASA astronauts on their last visit to the moon. "They are

worthless in a sense because no one wants them, but that is why it is essential for us to keep a collection of them," Dr Jim Bennet, curator of the Whipple, said.

The Hookham Collection of Pocket Calculators was started by local architect Mr Francis Hookham 13 years ago when he made his first Sinclair kit-calculator.

"I have never collected anything before, but I thought I should start because things were changing so fast. I decided to give it to the museum before it became worth anything and I became tempted to start trading the rare ones for money," said Mr Hookham.

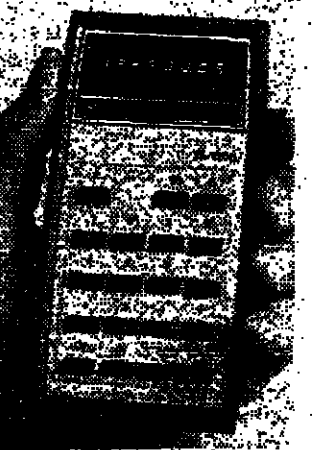
He was given most of the 415 calculators in the exhibition by computer firms and well-wishers. Although the pocket calculator is one of the more

spectacular examples of rapid obsolescence in the face of technological change. Mr Jeremy Collins, scientific instruments specialist at Christie's, does not recommend hoarding Casio's. "It would be a waste of time to hold on to them — they would just clutter up one's drawers."

However, the Munich Science Museum, which currently has an exhibition of 1970's computers, is short on pocket calculators.

The new exhibits are proving successful with young visitors. "The kids are not really turned on by the medieval instruments, but they are fascinated by the calculators," Dr Bennet said.

"They get all glassy-eyed and point at the 'Little Professor' (circa 1980, pictured) and eco nostalgically."



Museum piece: Calculating machine, circa 1975



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NEWS ROUNDUP

Secondary heads demand 27% rise

Secondary school heads and deputies in England and Wales yesterday lodged a claim for a 27 per cent pay rise to reflect what they said was a "considerable increase" in their responsibilities under the Education Reform Act.

The Secondary Heads Association urged the Government's interim advisory committee on teachers' pay to treat secondary school heads and deputies more favourably than the heads of primary schools and other teachers.

A 27 per cent rise was needed to restore differentials that had been eroded by April's award which favoured classroom teachers, Mr John Sutton, the association's general secretary, said.

The association said the £385 million the Government has set aside for next year's teachers' pay rise—equivalent to 5.1 per cent across the board—would not provide an adequate rise for all teachers.

Teacher training criticized, page 4

5 bodies recovered

Five bodies were recovered yesterday as Grampian Police began their grim task of searching the living quarters of the Piper Alpha accommodation module, now secured at the Flotta terminal, Orkney. The bodies were discovered in an accessible area of the 1,100 tonne module. Grampian Police said it would take two weeks or more to complete the search. There are still 106 men missing almost four months after the disaster on July 6 when gas explosions destroyed the Piper Alpha platform.

Pain research award

A British doctor who is one of the leading experts in understanding the causes of pain is to receive an international award next month. Dr Patrick Wall, aged 63, of University College London, is to receive \$50,000, the largest amount ever given for pain research, from Bristol-Myers, the American pharmaceutical company. Dr Wall helped to develop the "gate control" theory of pain 20 years ago. He was also involved in developing the therapy known as TENS, or transcutaneous electrical nerve stimulation.

Irish peace mission

The Roman Catholic Church in Ireland is leading its support to a religious peace mission to the United States aimed at dissuading groups from raising money for the IRA, starting on November 4. The mission will, for the first time, see it join leading figures from the three main Protestant denominations in such a move. It will include Dr Robin Eames, Primate of the Church of Ireland; Dr Cahal Daly, the Roman Catholic Bishop of Down and Connor; Dr Godfrey Brown, the Presbyterian Moderator; and the Rev Charles Eyre, general secretary of the Methodist Church.

Le Bon yacht claim

The singer Simon Le Bon almost drowned when his £1 million yacht "turned turtle" during the 1985 Fastnet race, the High Court was told yesterday. Mr Le Bon, of the Duran Duran group, was trapped with five crew members in an air pocket for 40 minutes. Mr Julian Flaux, for the yacht's owners, Drum Trader, said it turned over within 20 seconds after welds failed. The company is seeking damages from Adtec Welding Alloys, of Plymouth, and Ron Holland Yacht Design. The hearing continues today.

Langan now critical

Mr Peter Langan, the restaurateur who was badly burned in a fire at his home in Alphamstead, Essex, three days ago, was yesterday said to be in a critical condition after a two-hour operation at the special burns unit at St Andrew's Hospital, Billericay, Essex. Friends and police have been told they will have to wait at least three weeks to interview Mr Langan, aged 47. Police said an "accelerant" was used to start the fire and have taken away a petrol can which is being analysed by Home Office scientists.

Drink involved in 950 road deaths

By Rodney Cowton, Transport Correspondent

More than 950 road users were killed in accidents in 1986 where at least one driver or rider was over the legal limit for drink-driving, according to Department of Transport figures.

That amounted to almost one-fifth of all deaths on the roads.

A Transport and Road Research Laboratory bulletin, published by the department, also shows the 392,000 breath tests taken in 1987 was 30 per cent higher than in 1986, while the number of drivers failing tests rose by about 15 per cent to 98,000.

The bulletin notes that the proportion of drivers and riders found to be over the legal limit has decreased since 1978, and suggests drinking and driving may be decreasing. In support of this, it notes

an increase in the number of pedestrians killed in road accidents with a blood-alcohol level over the limit for driving "may also be an indication that more drivers are deciding to walk home..."

Another report from the Transport and Road Research Laboratory shows that one motorist in 50 between 10pm and 3am could be over the legal alcohol limit for driving.

It says: "Motorists who were over the legal limit were more confident than those who were not about their ability to drink and drive."

Drinking and Driving in 1987 (Department of Trade, Sales Unit, Building 1, Victoria Road, South Ruislip, Middlesex).

Roadside Survey of Drinking and Driving, RR175 (Transport and Road Research Laboratory, Crowthorne, Berkshire, £4).

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Cruise crash captain appears in court

By Ian Smith and Mario Mediano

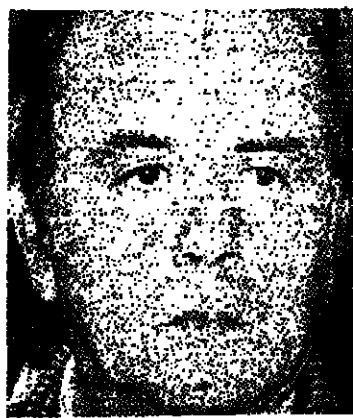
An Italian freighter captain vehemently protested his innocence to a Greek court yesterday as eye witnesses unanimously blamed him for his ship's collision with a cruise vessel leaving Piraeus harbour with nearly 400 schoolchildren aboard.

The Greek authorities accused him of making the situation worse by moving astern immediately after the collision, unplugging the hole in the cruiser and hastening its sinking.

Two Greek seamen were killed and two British passengers are still missing after the accident.

A Church of England minister described how, in utter disbelief, he and two secondary school teachers and a parent watched as the 5,000 ton cargo ship bore down on their vessel at an estimated speed of 10 knots. No evasive action was attempted by either captain before it smashed into the side of the Jupiter.

Although within sight of the dock



Captain Flavio Caminale, who denies a manslaughter charge.

and surrounded by harbour vessels or harbour boats, no crew members were visible on the Adige deck. The Adige allegedly made no attempt to stop and help panicking passengers.

Graphic accounts of the evening's events were given yesterday as captain Flavio Caminale was re-

manded by a Greek court charged with manslaughter and causing a shipwreck.

Captain Caminale told reporters: "I'm very sorry for the deaths, even though I'm not technically responsible for them. I was involved in a situation against my wishes."

Captain Caminale, aged 45, from Genoa, told journalists that the Jupiter was crossing his bow.

"Something strange happened, I don't know exactly what, and then a few moments later I understood the Greek vessel was not just passing in front of me but was coming against me."

He said he had tried to move the ship back to avoid a dangerous situation but the Greek vessel turned right and "struck my bow with her portside".

The Greeks accused the Italian skipper of moving at great speed and ramming the cruise ship with his bulbous prow at midships below the waterline. To worsen matters, they said, he promptly reversed, exposing a 20ft gash to the water. Had he not

pulled back, the Jupiter might have floated longer than the 47 minutes it had taken her to sink.

The captain's account was unvarnished, according to the Rev Robin Townsend, vicar of St James's Church, Slough, near Huddersfield, West Yorkshire. He was on the promenade deck with the two teachers and mother of a pupil aged 14 from Two Trees comprehensive school in Denison, Manchester.

Mr Townsend told *The Times*: "I was talking to the ladies enjoying the view of a lot of ships making their way to and from Piraeus. I noticed particularly one very high-sided ship and did not give it a second thought."

"It was not going very fast but it was certainly moving and was between a quarter and a half mile away. I'm absolutely certain it was under way."

"Then when I looked again the ship was practically on top of us and I said to the ladies 'You had better hang on, there is going to be an enormous collision'. Sure enough it

went straight into the side of us, its bows hitting us midships with an enormous crunch and crash."

Those standing on the upper promenade deck with Mr Townsend included Mrs Margaret Broomhead who had just left her daughter Wendy, aged 14, in a lower deck restaurant.

Mrs Broomhead described how she was watching their boat leave the harbour when she saw the Italian freighter moving towards them. "It obviously was not going to stop", she said.

Suddenly there was a tremendous thud and moments later crewmen appeared ordering everyone on to the main deck immediately.

Mrs Broomhead said: "There is no doubt in our minds the Italian ship was in the way, it was definitely moving."

Mr David Hanson, headmaster of Dukinfield High School, returned to England yesterday and said that passengers were given no advice on emergency drill.

Arrest death man fought with police, inquest told

A young black man whose death while being arrested led to serious street riots was not the victim of police officers using excessive force, an eye-witness claimed yesterday.

The inquest in Wolverhampton into the death of Clinton McCurbin, aged 24, was told he punched and kicked at two policemen as they tried to hold him for a suspected credit card fraud.

Mr Darren Scully, a floor supervisor at the Next menswear store in the city, told the hearing: "Only adequate force was being used."

"If they had used less force he would have got away."

Mr McCurbin, of Bovey Court, Graisle Lane, Wednesfield, Wolverhampton, died from asphyxia during the arrest in February 1987.

Two days of serious street disorders and looting followed, with battles between youths and the police and a number of arrests.

Mr Scully, who was allowed to keep his address secret by writing it down, said he became suspicious when a man asked him more than once about the credit limit on a Visa Barclaycard he was carrying.

He told the 10 jurors—who include a black woman and two Asians—that when he telephoned Barclaycard headquarters they confirmed the card was stolen and asked to speak to the customer.

While Mr McCurbin was still on the telephone the two police officers arrived.

After a brief conversation, Mr McCurbin said "excuse me" and tried to move away, adding "you are not going to arrest me".

Suddenly, said Mr Scully, Mr McCurbin made a dash for the door and there was a struggle. Asked by Mr Keith Swayne, Wolverhampton

Crash kills four, injures three in family



Police checking the mangled wreckage of the car and the van after the head-on collision in which five people were killed.

By Ruth Gledhill

Four members of a family died and three are seriously ill in hospital after a head-on collision in sunny weather in Cornwall yesterday. An eighth person, a van driver, was also killed. The four dead, who included three children, and the three survivors were all members of one family, from Fir Park, Harlow, Essex.

Cornwall's helicopter ambulance, which is paid for by donations from the public, played a key role in the speedy transfer of the injured to hospital. Mr Frank

Tamburello, aged 31, was killed instantly when the Datsun he was driving was in a collision with a van on the A39

Camelford to Bude Road, near Otterham station. His brother Les, aged 12, and his son Mark, aged three, were also killed in the collision. His son Michael, aged five, died in hospital. Mrs Shirley

Tamburello, aged 32, who was in the passenger seat, and Paul Tamburello, aged nine, were seriously ill in hospital at Plymouth. The youngest child, Leah, aged two, is gravely ill and is on a life

support machine. The driver of the van has not been named. The survivors were taken to hospital by the county's first air ambulance, paid for through public

hazards, funds, competitions and donations that provide the £28,000 a month for its upkeep. It was on the scene within minutes. The accident happened about 20 miles from the spot where Mr David Pashaligon, the Liberal MP, was killed in December 1986 after a Ford transit was skidded out of control on black ice at

Track Park, on the A39.

Mellor team to see Cleveland parents

By Ian Smith

Parents of suspected child sex abuse victims will be questioned by two social services inspectors who began an investigation yesterday into Cleveland County Council on the orders of Mr David Mellor, Minister of State for Health.

The inspectors will also interview senior social workers, the police and health authority officials. Their brief is to ensure that child abuse cases are handled promptly and that relationships between social

services, the police and the local health authority have improved.

The investigation was ordered after Mr Mellor expressed disquiet at the decision by Cleveland County Council last week to ignore its working party's recommendations and take no action against Mr Michael Bishop, director of social

abuse, or Mrs Sue Richardson, child abuse consultant.

The Department of Social Services said the investigation would centre on a sample of

children referred after allegations of sexual abuse. The council said: "We expect to demonstrate to the minister that the problems which occurred in Cleveland last year could not arise again. We believe he will find everything to his satisfaction." The report is expected by December.

Many of the 75,000 children who run away from home each year are victims of sexual abuse, according to a report published yesterday. Sixty-five per cent were from family

homes, 34 per cent from local authority care and 1 per cent from boarding schools, the Children's Society said.

Of the 532 runaways admitted to the society's safe house in London last year, 98 said they had been sexually abused and 19 claimed they had been raped since leaving home.

The society plans a network of safe houses in big cities to help young runaways. Its first safe house in London has helped more than 700 since it opened in 1985.

Mayor's crucial vote

Bradford set for a Tory revolution

By Ronald Faux

Conservatives on Bradford City Council plan to cut £14 million from the city's budget over the next two years, shed 9,000 jobs over the next five, and establish Bradford as an example of Thatcherism.

If the new strategy is endorsed at a full council meeting in the town hall today, it could be on the casting vote of Mr Smith Midgley, the Tory Lord Mayor of Bradford.

Recent by-elections have reduced Labour's hold on Bradford substantially. There are now 43 Tory, 43 Labour and two SDP representatives on the council. If there is a full turnout at today's meeting

and, as expected, the SDP supports Labour, Conservative success will rest on the mayor's casting vote.

Labour insists that would be an undemocratic use of the mayor's position and is enraged by Tory plans to cut back spending on libraries and charge more for school meals.

Members of the National and Local Government Officers' Association in Bradford are planning a half-day strike against the Conservatives today, while the Bishop of Bradford, the Rt Rev Robert Williamson, expressing his

concern, told the council: "Such cuts can only make the lives of some of the more vulnerable in our community even more vulnerable," he

said.

Council officials said yesterday the cuts would mean the loss of about 2,500 full-time jobs. This year, £5.8 million would be cut from the budget. Next year, £8.4 million would be saved and costs would be reduced by an average of £6 million a year over the next five years.

Nalco officers said 170 jobs would be lost immediately if the measures were passed. The size would fall on 29 benefit shops that give advice on social security entitlements to the elderly and unemployed.

Many council services would be privatised and sports centres, old people's homes, council estates and other assets would be sold.

Council rents would rise with sports and swimming charges and the price of meals on wheels. Fourteen jobs in the chief executive's office alone would go, with 45 jobs in the council's finance directorate and 50 jobs in the personnel directorate.

A boycott on South African goods would be lifted and Bradford would cease to be a nuclear-free zone.

However, the Tories say their strategy is to push through the most unpopular measures immediately and within two years—before the next municipal elections—demonstrate that Conservative is preferable to "expensive development of socialism" in the North.

Leisure developers buy '£10m' observatory site

By Christopher Warriman, Property Correspondent

Herstmonceux Castle and its 368 acres in East Sussex, home of the Royal Greenwich Observatory since the 1940s, has been sold for a sum thought to be close to £10 million and is to be converted into a leisure park.

James Developments made the successful bid from about a dozen potential buyers, mainly hotel companies and leisure developers. The exact purchase price was not disclosed, but the company plans to spend more than £20 million on the project.

Herstmonceux Castle was sold on behalf of the Science and Engineering Research Council after the decision in 1986 to relocate the Obser-

vatory to Cambridge. The move will be completed by 1990 but, in addition to the castle, the Equatorial Group of telescope domes will remain.

It is hoped that one of the leisure schemes will have a scientific background.

A study by the English Tourist Board called for a comprehensive leisure scheme, with a championship golf course, the use of the castle as a hotel and a range of country activities.

Mr Ian Tegg, chief executive of James Developments, said they would be discussing with the planning authority a development along the broad lines of the report.

Opera scheme to encourage new works

By Andrew Billen

The Royal Opera is going to raise £100,000 to encourage the composition of new works.

The "Garden Venture" will establish an opera laboratory to encourage young composers and will launch seven new works at the London International Opera Festival next year, for a programme to be made up of six 20-minute chamber operas and *Caedmon*, a 50-minute work by Mr Edward Lambert based on Christopher Fry's play *One*

Thing More. The Arts Council is giving £4,000 towards the commissions but the rest of the money will be raised by 1,000 donations of £100 each from individuals whose names will then become associated with the works.

Utley is praised as chronicler of Tory thought



The Prime Minister with the Bishop of London, the Rt Rev Graham Leonard, at T E Utley's memorial service.

By A Staff Reporter

Brilliance in writing and clearness of thought are hand-in-glove to memorable journalism. Allied to wit and paradox, they can approach greatness. All four qualities were embodied in T E Utley, whose lifetime's defence of traditional political values was recalled at a memorial service at St Martin-in-the-Fields, London, yesterday.

Mr Utley, who died in June aged 67, wrote chiefly for *The Times* and *The Daily Telegraph*. Mr Colin Welch, a fellow political commentator, told a congregation of more than 400 that by employing organization, intelligence, logic and experience he overcame blindness to grasp unwelcome truths not readily available to the sighted.

The congregation included the Prime Minister and other members of the Cabinet and

the presence of so many leading Conservatives was a confirmation that Mr Utley's perception and acute analysis had anticipated present-day political thinking long before Thatcherism.

Mr Welch, a former deputy editor of *The Daily Telegraph*, highlighted the strength of both Mr Utley's written and spoken word, which he dictated to his wife or to secretaries. "Many people helped Peter in various ways. They were richly rewarded."

The Rev Eubank John Foster, vicar of St Mary on Paddington Green, spoke of "the great causes for which he fought through thick and thin, his courageous defence of his beloved Utley."

Mrs Margaret Thatcher stood the longest and, as if to underline a basic English

patriotism in the man, the congregation sang *I vow to thee my country*.

A memorial fund has been set up to honour Mr Utley, with a target of £100,000 to award an annual prize for a promising young political writer. When it was announced last month Mr Oliver Knox, a member of the Centre for Policy Studies, the Conservative "think tank", said: "Mr Utley's principal concern was the unity of the kingdom and the maintenance of the constitution. For 30 years he championed the direction of Tory thought with more perception than anyone else."

That so many distinguished politicians, academics and other leading figures attended to honour him yesterday was a confirmation that true perception is more than mere sight.

Full report, page 18

Brain-damaged girl wins £800,000 after operation

By Mark Soester

A teenage girl who has a mental age of six months after suffering brain damage in hospital seven years ago, was awarded £800,000 agreed damages in the High Court yesterday.

The award, against East Anglian Regional Health Authority and Huntingdon health authorities, is believed to be the second highest yet made.

Mr William Wright, QC, for the plaintiffs, Mr William Head and his wife, Nicola, from St Ives, Cambridgeshire, described their daughter, Malinka, now aged 15, as a tall, pretty girl who had enjoyed dancing before her operation.

After she had her appendix removed at Huntingdon Hospital in October 1981, she was barely able to speak or understand speech.

She suffered between 30 and 40 epileptic fits a week and needed constant supervision.

"There is no prospect of any further recovery whatever," he said. She had a life expectancy of 15 to 35 years.

Mr Wright said: "None of us involved in this case has ever had anything to do with anyone so profoundly disabled." He said that before the hospital blunder, the girl had shown above-average ability

at school and had every prospect of a satisfying and fulfilling life.

The catalogue of "disasters" began after she had her appendix removed. A GP had earlier refused to visit her, saying she was suffering from a stomach bug.

By the time she reached hospital in Huntingdon, she had developed peritonitis.

At Huntingdon and Addenbrookes Hospital, to which she was transferred, she was given a gallon more intravenous fluid than was needed. "The levels were more suitable for an adult than a eight-and-a-half-year-old girl weighing five stone," Mr Wright said. "She developed water intoxication."

"It was only when she was admitted to the intensive care unit at Addenbrookes that the problems were diagnosed, by which time 'irreversible brain damage had occurred'."

"She has been a totally disabled girl from that time," Mr Wright said. "Malinka now appears to be functioning at an intellectual level between six months and one year."

"She is totally dependent on others; she is mute; she suffers from severe and uncontrollable epilepsy which is sometimes so bad that she screams

and rocks from side to side ... and no one can do anything to comfort her."

Mr Wright said she attended Clayton School near Peterborough, which specialized in the care of severely handicapped children.

However, she had to leave the school at 19 and there no school or institution in the country could provide the attention she needed.

Mr Justice Tucker said Malinka had suffered a "grave misfortune". Many people had devoted time to helping her and he praised her parents, who had had a "grievous burden to bear".

"I congratulate them and hope that the award will go some way towards comforting them and making life easier for their daughter."

He agreed that £30,000 should be set aside for Mr and Mrs Head as a gesture for the trials and tribulations they had endured.

At a press conference after the award, Mrs Head said: "I feel I have had a very successful day. But I cannot say it has been a happy time. It has just ended a seven-year battle and I feel quite victorious in that."

She said she no longer felt bitterness towards anyone but hoped changes would be made

to hasten legal claims through the courts.

The award would ensure her daughter had the best love, care and attention money could buy. The family would buy a larger house to provide appropriate facilities for her.

However, she condemned the health authorities for what she described as delaying tactics.

"I feel they prevaricated for so long they just hoped we would give up and go away."

She added that it had been difficult to divide her attention equally between the members of her family. She had had to ensure that her two other children, Giles, aged 13, and Luke, aged 10, had not become bitter.

Her solicitor, Mr Terry Lee, praised Mrs Head for persevering with her case in the face of extreme adversity.

He said the health authorities should have admitted liability far earlier than they finally did in December 1986, five years after the operation. He also said a sensible interim payment above the £25,000 already made should have been provided.

Mr Howard Weston, a lawyer for the health authorities, said they were "sorry" for what had occurred.

Tax queries for Piggott



Lester Piggott reunited with Pepe at his stables yesterday after release on parole.

By Andrew Moger
Lester Piggott yesterday returned home from prison to his successful stables and to his wife who has overcome severe riding injuries. But not all worries were behind him.

The Inland Revenue has confirmed that it is still investigating the tax affairs of the former champion jockey, who had spent one year and a day in jail.

Since his trial for tax fraud totalling £3 million, officials have continued inquiries on

matters not included in the case. They say they might have to interview him about any outstanding taxes he may still owe.

Yesterday, after being released on parole from Highpoint Prison, Suffolk, to the jeers and shouts from fellow inmates, Mr Piggott, aged 52, had his sights on rebuilding his family life. Regaining his trainer's licence would have to wait.

He had been given a three-year sentence but prison

authorities recommended to the Parole Board he be given a full year off his sentence on remission for good behaviour.

Mr Piggott praised his wife Susan, his daughter Maureen and the staff at the family's Eve Lodge Stables in Newmarket for doing "a wonderful job in my absence". He said he was looking forward to training again.

The Home Office confirmed last night that Piggott would be subject to the terms of a licence for a year.

Surgeon is jailed for drug thefts

A surgeon who became hooked on anaesthetics and stole them from hospital operating theatres was jailed yesterday.

Jennifer Ecclestone, aged 34, left her £17,000-a-year job after being arrested and now faces the fact that her career was in ruins. Cardiff Crown Court was told.

She became hooked in 1982 and was caught by police last April. She now earns £50 a week working in a laundry after resigning from the general medical register.

Ecclestone, of Chepstow, Gwent, admitted two charges of stealing prescriptions, and five of stealing drugs.

Sentencing her to nine months suspended the judge, Mr Justice McNeill, said: "The disgrace you have brought on your parents is obvious. You are the local girl made good, who has fallen down on hopes placed in her."

Ecclestone became addicted to the pain-killing tablets Buprenorphine Targisic

Mr Peter Jacobs, for the prosecution, said that since 1986 she had also become addicted to sniffing the anaesthetics Fluothane and Halothane.

He said Ecclestone was once caught sniffing from a bottle when she was supposed to be on night duty in Southmead Hospital, Bristol.

The surgeon was finally arrested after finishing work at the accident unit of the University Hospital of Wales at Cardiff. Police found her in her car shaking and sniffing fluid.

Mr Roger Thomas, for the defence, said: "It can truly be said she has thrown it all away. It's sad that someone who was bringing relief and healing to distressed people should herself fall prey to a drug." He said she never did anything which could jeopardize hospital patients.

Paralysed rugby player sues council

A talented rugby player who was paralysed during a school match seven years ago claimed damages in the High Court, London, yesterday from the Devon County Council.

Mr Brian Quinn, aged 25, of Eaton Drive, Exeter, is suing the council, the authority in charge of his sixth-form college, for negligence. The council has denied the claim.

Mr Quinn blamed his rugby coach at Exeter College for teaching him techniques that led to the accident. Mr

Christopher Wilson-Smith, for Mr Quinn, told Mr Justice Ognall that Mr Alim Rees, the school coach, taught the boys a manoeuvre to drive forward into a tackle and then place the ball between their legs for the forwards who were coming up from behind.

He said the coaching was "ill-considered and dangerous".

Mr Quinn, who had been selected for trials for the England under-19 team, had played rugby since the age of 11.

Mr Wilson-Smith said Mr Quinn

needed daily nursing care and a specially adapted home. He had hoped the local authority would offer him employment but that had now gone.

After an earlier ruling that a school had no general duty to insure, Mr Quinn had abandoned a claim that his school should have taken out insurance for him.

The hearing, which will hear from witnesses from Exeter College and West Buckland School, the opposing team in the Devon Cup semi-final, is expected to last about a week.

Cellphone survey

Users attack poor quality

By Robert Matthews, Technology Correspondent

Most of Britain's cellphone users are dissatisfied with the quality of service, according to Ofel, the communications watchdog.

It says that a survey, compiled by the Telecommunications Users' Association, which represents corporate users, shows that neither Cellnet or Vodafone, the two operators of the national network, is providing an adequate service. As many as four out of five users are dissatisfied, the survey finds.

Of the 270 companies covered by the survey, 82 per cent said they were dissatisfied with the Vodafone service, while 72 per cent were dissatisfied with Cellnet. Constant engaged signals, sudden loss of calls and poor reception

are the main complaints. The problems are most acute near big conurbations.

The quality of service also appears to be getting worse, according to the survey.

"It says the consensus was 'that there had been a quite noticeable depreciation in the quality of service over the past 12 months. It is apparent that the service is severely congested'."

Many users felt that the technology could not cope with the enormous demands now being placed upon it. There are 400,000 cellphone users in Britain.

One of those questioned said: "There is far too much hype from equipment vendors. They oversell the ability of the network without

qualification on the capability of the technology in handling the demand."

Both Cellnet and Vodafone are installing new "cells" in an attempt to reduce some of the congestion.

However, the users' association said: "If the full potential for this service is to be realized, taking into consideration the demand by the EEC for a single European standard, then more radio frequencies must be issued to Cellnet and Vodafone."

The Department of Trade and Industry said last night that it is to meet the Ministry of Defence to discuss the possibility of releasing military frequencies to help ease congestion.

Vodafone float, page 29

Jury given list of options

A jury was told yesterday of the options they had to exclude before convicting three people of an alleged plot to kill Mr Tom King, the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland. They were sabotage, burglary, kidnapping and exposure of the security system, said Mr Michael Mansfield, for Finbarr Cullen, aged 27. He told Winchester Crown Court none would necessarily involve death.

Cullen, of Maymoath, Co Kildare, Martina Shanahan, aged 22, and John McCann, aged 24, both Dublin, deny conspiring to murder Mr King between May 1 and August 31 last year, and conspiring to murder persons unknown.

Summing up, Mr Justice Swinton Thomas said the prosecution relied on circumstantial evidence. "You must be able to say the evidence shows irresistibly that there was an agreement entered into by these defendants, or one or more of them, to murder Mr King," he said.

Although none gave evidence "you must not assume that they are guilty ...". The trial continues today.

Cure for squinting linked to botulism

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

An injection with a new substance related to botulism is being used by doctors in London to replace difficult operations to remedy squints and other serious eye conditions caused by muscle spasms. The development is based on a derivative of the agent which causes botulism, the rare but deadly form of food poisoning for which there is no antidote.

Specialists who perfected a new treatment at the Institute of Ophthalmology at Moorfields Eye Hospital say it is much easier for patients, who have an injection about once every six months.

Mr John Lee, consultant surgeon at Moorfields, said it would be less demanding for patients and Moorfields if patients could be treated locally.

The new treatment exploits the fact that the disorders are caused by the impairment of tiny muscles that move the eye, in the case of a squint, and close the eyes in an involuntary spasm, a distressing condition known as blepharospasm. There is also a type

of permanent stiff neck, referred to as torticollis, that may be the result of impairment of the muscles of the eye.

The botulism toxin released in a victim causes muscle paralysis which can be fatal when attacking the heart and lungs. The extract from the toxin used to remedy the eye defect, prepared by the Government's Centre for Applied Microbiological Research at Porton Down, Wiltshire, stops uncontrollable movements.

Mr Lee said the amounts were so small they had no side-effects.

● A drug which heals stomach ulcers and prevents new ones was launched yesterday. About a third of arthritis sufferers develop ulcers as a side-effect of non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs), prescribed to relieve pain.

They then have to stop taking the pain killers for up to eight weeks. Cytotec (generic name misoprostol) can be used with NSAIDs, healing ulcers while allowing pain relief, manufacturers said.

£4,000 artwork saved from hearth

An Alfred Munnings painting that almost became firewood is to be auctioned by Christie's in London on November 10.

The racing study, one of five previously unknown paintings by Sir Alfred, belonged to a friend, the late Miss Audrey Bacon, one of two sisters who were painters themselves. They were found at Miss Bacon's house in Norfolk after her death last July.

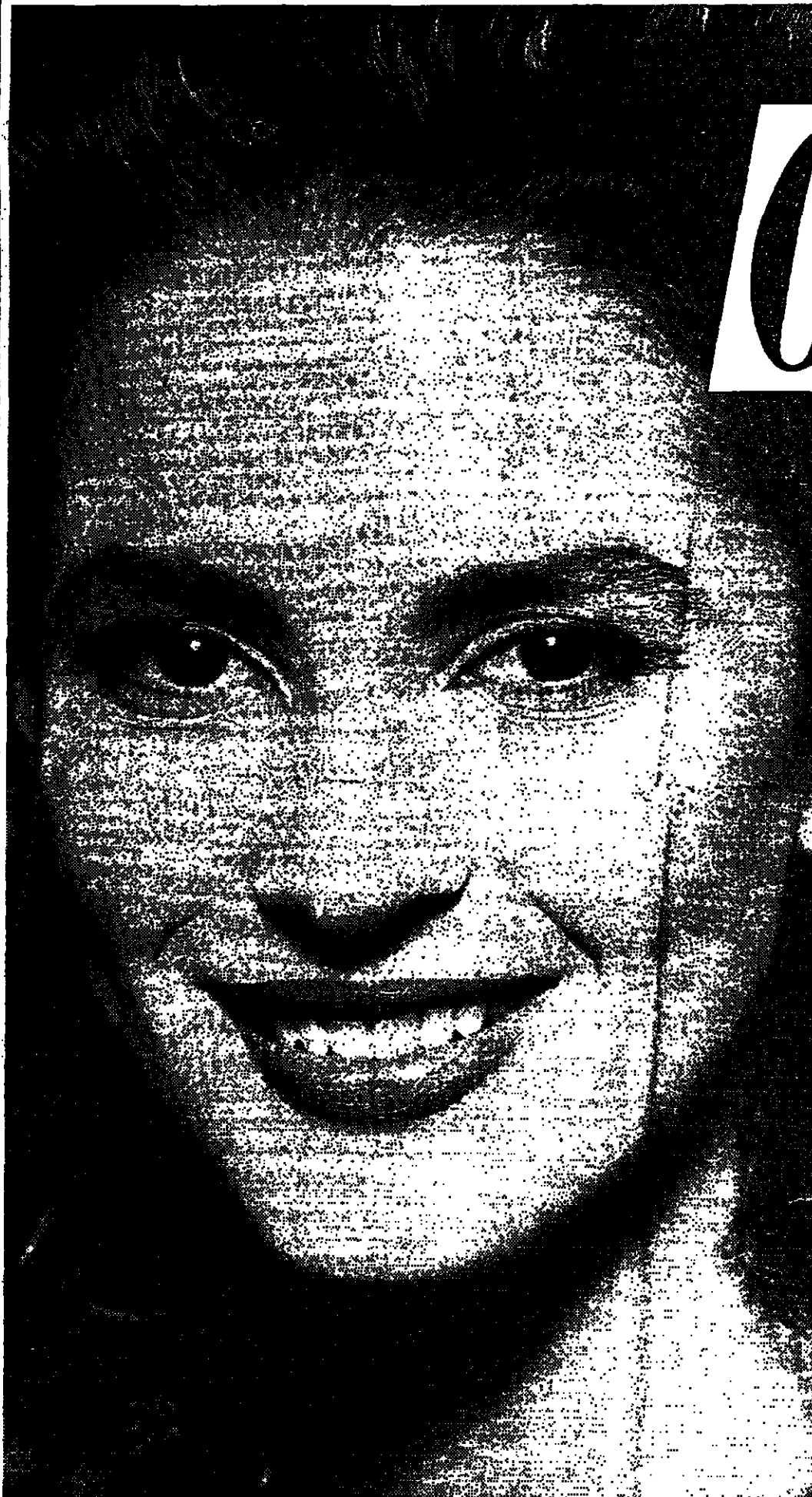
Miss Bacon and her elder sister, Mrs Marjorie Macbeth-Raeburn, befriended Sir Alfred before the Second

World War. After the death of Mrs Macbeth-Raeburn's husband in 1947, the sisters shared a house in Southtown Road, Great Yarmouth. They died within a short time of each other and the paintings came to light when Mr Richard Wills of Christie's undertook a valuation there.

Mr Wills said he rescued the racing study, painted on wood, from the hearth at Miss Bacon's home. The family wanted to use it as kindling. The unnamed panel, 12ins by 16ins, is estimated at £4,000 to

£6,000. It will be sold with a painting of an old oak tree, a river landscape, and two fragments — a head of Lady Munnings sketched with two horses and a study of her seated side saddle — also found in the house. The five works are expected to fetch at least £9,600 in total.

Sir Alfred (1878-1959), the son of a miller and a highly controversial president of the Royal Academy, has become one of the highest priced modern British artists since his death.



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New teachers lack proper training, inspectors find

By David Tytler
Education Editor

Too many teachers enter the classroom without proper training in how to teach and how to maintain discipline, according to a report issued yesterday.

The detailed analysis from the Her Majesty's Inspectors of Schools on how newly qualified teachers perform in their first year also says that teacher training colleges have failed to train their students to deal with classes.

One in five probationary teachers at primary and middle schools, and one in eight at secondary schools, are "less than adequately or poorly prepared for their jobs", according to the government watchdog of education standards. The inspectors say that many newly qualified teachers feel unable to teach children to read or prepare them for public examinations.

Mr Kenneth Baker, Secretary of State for Education and Science, insists that his recent moves to tighten up the training of teachers will meet most of the complaints. He is, however, "disturbed"

TEACHERS' RATINGS

	1	2	3	4	5	6
Grade for teaching:						
Primary/middle	6	31	35	22	6	0
Secondary	9	22	38	17	5	1
All	7	31	37	19	5	1
Pupils' response:						
Primary/middle	9	34	38	14	4	0
Secondary	9	39	36	12	3	1
All	9	37	37	13	3	1

Rating: 1=Excellent; 2=Good; 3=Satisfactory; 4=Less than satisfactory; 5=Poor; 6=Very poor.

at the main findings.

The report, based on a survey carried out in England and Wales last year in 120 primary, 177 secondary and three middle schools, found that a quarter of lessons taken by probationary teachers were unsatisfactory.

In 15 per cent of lessons, relationships between teacher and pupils were unsatisfactory; planning and preparation of lessons in 17 per cent of cases was also unsatisfactory. The needs of the more able and less able were "largely ignored" in 30 per cent of lessons.

Many pupils were over-directed in their work with "excessive use of work sheets and work cards", the inspectors said. Marking of pupils' work was too often unsatisfactory, showing that teachers were unclear about their purpose.

The inspectors criticized the academic emphasis of teacher training which neglected practical courses in classroom methods, saying: "Substantial proportions of new teachers felt that education studies had received too much emphasis while the more practical aspects such as teaching method, classroom observation and teaching practice had received too little".

Schools were criticized for setting too high a standard in their expectations of the new teacher: "Many were excessive and a small number of secondary schools were unrealistic in expecting probationers to function immediately as fully fledged practitioners." The new teacher is also let down by the lack of support he receives at his first school where there is an "absence of clear guidelines".

The New Teacher in School (Stationery Office, £4.50).

deputy headship of the new school. Mr McGovern had been in competition with other teachers. Along with other unsuccessful candidates, he would be eligible to apply for other teaching posts in the new school, they added. He would suffer no loss of salary if he was appointed to a more junior post.

Mr McGovern had feared that he would fail to get a job in the new school because of his views on GCSE.

Letters, page 17

Hockney in retrospective mood



A reflective David Hockney at the Tate Gallery yesterday with some of the works that feature in his retrospective exhibition. The artist was being filmed for London Weekend Television's *South Bank Show* as the hanging of his paintings was completed. The exhibition opens to the public on Thursday (Photograph: Graham Wood). Arts, page 20

GCSE opponent not victimized, governors say

By Douglas Broom
Education Reporter

The governors of the Priory School at Lewes in East Sussex yesterday denied victimizing the school's former head of history because of his opposition to the new GCSE examination.

Mr Chris McGovern, who prepared his pupils for the Scottish O Grade examination because of his concern about "empathy" questions in GCSE, lost his job a fortnight ago in a school re-

organization. But the governors yesterday took the unusual step of issuing a public statement to reject allegations that he had been unfairly treated.

The school is due to lose its sixth form next summer to a newly created tertiary college and existing staff have been obliged to resign and re-apply for jobs.

The statement says Mr McGovern had applied unsuccessfully for the job of head of humanities, a new department taking in geography and history, and the acting

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NATIONAL SAVINGS

SAVINGS CERTIFICATES

Religious texts are restored to Britain

By Emma Wilkins

Two of England's most precious national treasures, bought by an American tycoon more than 50 years ago, are to return home this week.

Thomas a Kempis's *Imitation of Christ* and St Bonaventure's biography of St Francis of Assisi, both dating from the early 16th century, were part of York Minster's collection for more than 350 years until they were sold to fund repair work in 1930.

The buyer, Dr A S W Rosenbach, split the volumes - originally bound together when the Minster acquired them from the collection of Archbishop Tobie Matthew in 1628 - and then sold them to a Californian collector.

Dr Maryn Jannetta, curator of English antiquarian books at the British Library, which paid \$56,000 for the pair at a recent New York auction, said it was fortunate that the books had been auctioned together.

"Dr Rosenbach is the man we must blame for their separation and removal from York Minster library", he said. "He probably thought he would be able to sell them separately, but then he found a buyer for both, so they stayed together."

Mr Bernard Barr, sub-librarian at York Minster,

said: "It is right that these books, which were part of England's popular culture, should come back to this country. It was also wholly right that they should have been bound together, because they are similar devotional texts."

Only three other copies of the fourth edition in English of the *Imitation of Christ*, which has had a profound influence on Western religious thought, are known to exist.

Two are in the Cambridge University Library and one is in the British Museum. However, they are all damaged, which makes this volume, published in 1528, particularly significant.

The *Imitation of Christ* is the most important devotional work of the late Middle Ages - only the Bible had a greater print order than it.

The only other known first English edition of St Bonaventure's *Life of St Francis*, published in 1515, is in the Pierpont Morgan Library in New York.

The British Library paid \$40,000 for the *Imitation of Christ*, and \$16,000 for the biography of St Francis. It is hoping to receive financial support to offset the cost from an undisclosed charitable organization.

New York blazes way in art world

The New York art market has overtaken London during the past year, according to new statistics. American and British markets account for almost 75 per cent of sales, and the biggest money-makers, commanding 38 per cent of the market, were French paintings.

The statistics can be found in the twentieth annual edition of the Art Sales Index, which has 81,000 entries covering prices for oil paintings, watercolours, drawings and sculpture sold by 300 international auctioneers during the 12 months from August 1987.

Turnover in America rose from \$249.3 million to \$382.1 million from 1986 to 1988, while figures for the UK sank from £368.3 million to £327.9 million.

"Over the last few years, the market appears to have altered, and America has taken the lead again", Richard Hishop, the Index's editor, said. Seventy-one works sold for more than £1 million, with Van Gogh's "Irises" netting £30 million.

Colnaghi of Bond Street, London, are showing five important "discoveries" at their exhibition "Gothic to Renaissance", opening tomorrow. They include "The Vir-

gin and Child with Sts Cecilia and Barbara" by the Venetian Renaissance artist, Carpaccio, valued at more than £1 million; a rare painting of St Augustine by the Siennese, Sassetta, as well as works by Jacopo Bellini and Tintoretto.

The star of the show, the newly identified "Adoration of the Magi" by Albrecht Altdorfer is not for sale. One of only 30 known works by the great painter, architect, and councillor, it was bought recently for a song at auction.

"It was absolutely black when we bought it, but infrared light revealed a complete underdrawing", Richard Knight, for the gallery, said. "We would like to build up our in-house collection."

After amazement at the emergence of two copies of Karl Marx's Communist Manifesto during the same number of years, Sotheby's experts are now dumbfounded at the appearance of a third.

Estimated at up to £30,000, and an example of the second edition, it brings the total of known copies to nine.

Deaths at sea last year highest in peace time

By Rodney Cowton, Transport Correspondent

The number of ships lost last year was the lowest for more than a quarter of a century, but the number of deaths was the highest in peace time since Lloyd's Register began keeping records.

According to the annual *Casualty Returns*, published by Lloyd's Register today, the

3,641 lives lost was largely due to a collision between two vessels in the Philippines with the loss of 3,132 lives.

The second highest loss was when the *Herald of Free Enterprise* capsized at Zeebrugge and 193 people died. The report said 219 vessels were lost during 1987.

Fear of nuclear scientists on brink of success

Fusion research hangs in balance

By Robert Matthews
Technology Correspondent

The Government is about to decide whether British scientists should continue to work on one of the greatest scientific enterprises.

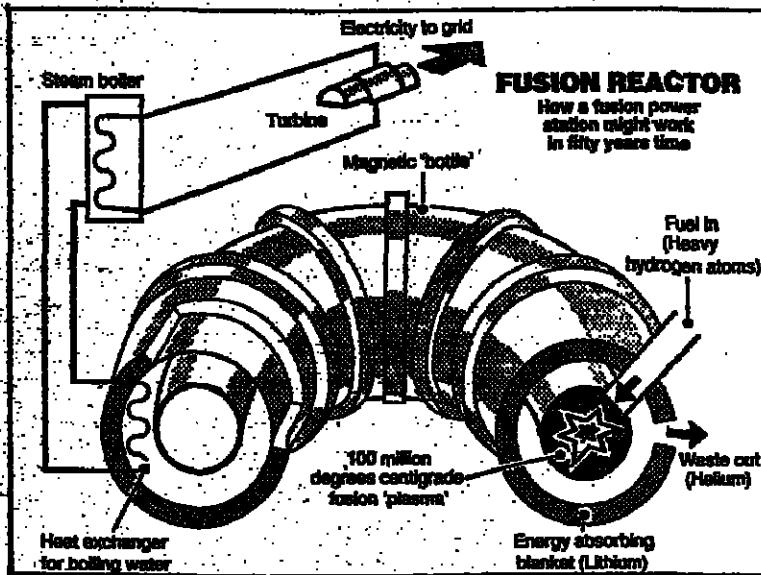
Many scientists involved in the project fear that they are about to be pulled out just as success comes into view. They are working on a way to harness energy from nuclear fusion, the power source of the stars. It is a source of energy that has the potential to solve the world's energy problems.

At the Joint European Torus (JET) fusion experiment being run in Culham, Oxfordshire, British scientists and their European counterparts are attempting to reach temperatures of more than 100 million C in a doughnut-shaped container, or torus, to prove that fusion can work down on Earth.

Earlier this month, Dr Paul Robet, the French director of the project, said the JET machine was closer than any other in the world to achieving self-sustaining fusion reactions.

That the JET project does succeed has been made all the more urgent because of the growing concern over the "greenhouse effect", the overheating of the Earth caused primarily by the burning of fossil fuels in conventional power stations. Nuclear fusion reactors would generate no atmospheric pollution.

However, just as fusion research comes within striking distance of its long-sought goal, the Government looks set to pull in the reins. A Cabinet advisory committee chaired by Mr John Fairclough, formerly



director of research at IBM (UK), the computer company, is putting together a report on whether the Government should continue to fund fusion research. Its conclusions will emerge when the public expenditure White Paper is published next month.

British fusion scientists are worried about the outcome of the review. "I just do not think we will get away scot free", a senior member of the British team said. Their fears appear to be well-founded.

The same committee was responsible for last July's decision to end research into fast breeder nuclear fusion reactors, which have the ability to create their own fuel. However, the building of a full-scale fast breeder

reactor has been affected by problems for so long that the economic case for the technology has disappeared. But at least the fast breeder project had a reactor to show for the £1 billion pumped into it over its 20-year life. Even the most optimistic nuclear fusion scientist would concede that commercial power stations based on fusion are probably about half a century away.

Earlier this month, the JET team said it had shown that it is possible to reach the temperatures required, and sustain them long enough, to ignite fusion reactions using the magnetic bottle technique.

But the JET machine itself will never reach ignition. Another, and vastly

more expensive, fusion machine will have to be built to prove that the scientists have got their sums right and can do that.

The Next European Torus (Net), now on the drawing board in West Germany, is likely to cost more than £700 million. But some scientists working on fusion admit privately that, even after all the work on JET, it is not clear if Net is the right way to go ahead.

Questions are also being asked about just how marvellous a power source fusion reactors will finally prove to be. They may not pollute the atmosphere, but the amount of radioactive waste they produce, in the form of irradiated reactor components, may be substantial.

With so many basic questions still demanding answers, the Cabinet Office advisers have little more to go on in their assessment than the optimism of those involved in the project. But fusion scientists have a notorious reputation for over-optimism.

The key question the Cabinet Office will be asking is whether Britain should be leaving fusion to others with more money. The Government is committed to contributing about £3 million a year to the JET programme until 1993. What happens after that depends on the outcome of the review.

If the Cabinet Office views fusion with the same eye as it did the fast breeder programme, Culham may be seen as an expendable part of Britain's contribution to what it may regard as a ludicrously futuristic scientific jamboree.

Toyah sings for hospital



Toyah Wilcox, the actress and singer, with Emma (left) and Anne-Marie Collier in Birmingham yesterday after the announcement that she is to give a concert in aid of the memorial fund for their brother, Matthew, the hole-in-the-heart boy who died earlier this year. Matthew, of Willenhall, West Midlands, died aged four on St Valentine's day after four operations. His plight drew attention to a funding crisis at Birmingham Children's Hospital, which will benefit from the concert at the City Repertory Theatre on November 13.

More court rights for barristers

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

Wider rights of audience for the 5,000 barristers employed by industry, commerce or local government — and increased rights for black barristers accused of misconduct — have been agreed by the Bar Council's annual meeting.

The greater rights of audience were approved as part of a new code of conduct for the Bar, which was endorsed unanimously.

The change will mean that such barristers will be able to take cases themselves in court rather than having to brief counsel as if they were solicitors, as at present.

The meeting also agreed to refer allegations of discrimination against black barristers by Birmingham Crown Court judges to the Lord Chancellor's Department.

The allegations arise out of letters written to the Lord Chancellor's Department by the Birmingham court's administrators, referring to the black rights barrister, Mr Rudy Narayan, who is appealing against a 30-month suspension for professional misconduct.

The Bar Council said barristers were concerned that there might have been manipulation of the legal aid two-counsel rule — by which a QC is normally accompanied by a junior barrister — to exclude barristers, such as Mr Narayan, who are not QCs.

Mr Narayan has complained that a judge in one of

the Handsworth riots cases in which he defended Rastafarians insisted that the leading barrister should be a QC, although the regulations did not empower him to do so.

At the same meeting, Bar members agreed that a barrister before a disciplinary tribunal for making allegations of racial discrimination should have a multi-racial tribunal. Mr Narayan has sought in vain to have black barristers on his tribunal.

It was also agreed that where a barrister is charged with making allegations against judges of a particular circuit, the barrister should never be tried by that judge, or judges from that circuit.

The Ministry of Justice has called for the introduction of a new offence which would penalize drivers with a lower blood-alcohol level than at present.

It was proposed at the association's annual meeting that it should be illegal to drive or attempt to drive with alcohol in excess of 50mg in 100ml of blood, compared with 80mg at present.

Television commercials and dramatic posters on London station hoardings are among the latest ventures by solicitors in England and Wales to promote themselves to the public.

The poster campaign is the brainchild of Lewis Silkin, the London solicitors. It is costing nearly £10,000.

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"Ouch! Roll on goo goo goo."

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Rape case advertisement causes a furore as the presidential campaign enters its final two weeks

Republicans forced onto defensive by race issue backlash

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

Vice-President George Bush was forced on the defensive yesterday amid a barrage of bitter accusations that he is inflaming racial fears by focusing persistently on the rape of a white woman by a black convicted murderer.

"There isn't any racism, it's absolutely ridiculous," he insisted in defending a Republican commercial about the assault, carried out by Willie Horton, who escaped while on weekend leave in 1986 under a now-defunct Massachusetts prison furlough programme.

The Democratic attack, which appears to have been carefully orchestrated, landed a rare blow on the seemingly invincible Bush campaign.

The Republicans were forced for once to depart from their rigid routine in order to justify the highly emotive commercials.

Mr Bush described the criticism as a desperate move by the Democrats. "People see this for what it is—a campaign tactic. I stand 100 per cent behind those advertisements," he insisted. He

lambasted Mr Dukakis for being upset by the Republican advertisement "not because it's false but because he is weak on crime and defence, and that's the inescapable truth".

Bush campaign officials indicated yesterday that the nationwide advertising campaign focusing on the Horton case would continue.

It has proved to be an immensely powerful message.

US ELECTION

Although Mr Bush never mentions either his colour or that of his victim, a picture of Horton has appeared on hundreds of thousands of Republican Party campaign leaflets.

Senator Lloyd Bentsen, the Democratic vice-presidential contender, and the Rev Jesse Jackson headed the assault on Republican tactics. Mr Jackson said that "a number of

rather ngly race-conscious signals have been sent from that campaign" and accused Mr Bush of trying to spread "horrible fears".

Mr Mark Goodin, a Bush campaign spokesman, said: "The issue isn't Willie Horton. The issue is why did he get out and why didn't Michael Dukakis stop it?"

He castigated Mr Jackson for hypocrisy, in view of the preacher's past "religiously disparaging remarks about Jews".

The increasing criticism of Republican use of the Horton case has brought to the forefront the whole issue of the use of emotionally charged images to brand Mr Dukakis a liberal.

The Democratic campaign believes it can create a backlash to the election tactics. Indeed, it managed to force Mr Bush to repudiate leaflets issued by the Illinois Republican State Central Committee, which asserted "all the murderers, and rapists, and drug pushers and child molesters in Massachusetts vote for Michael Dukakis".



Governor Michael Dukakis shaking hands with a Vietnam war veteran at an airport rally in Eau Claire, Wisconsin.

Dukakis adviser closes policy gap with Bush

By Andrew McEwen in London and Michael Binyon in Washington

As the American presidential election campaign enters its final two weeks, the differences between the two candidates on foreign and defence issues are seen to be narrowing.

None of the differences which were perceived at the outset of the campaign have loomed as large as expected. Mr Dukakis at one stage looked as if he would campaign against Star Wars and in favour of much stronger action against South Africa on apartheid, but he has made less of these than he might.

His advisers are now saying that there is less difference between him and Mr Bush on foreign policy than between the candidates in the two previous elections.

This view is partly self-serving, reflecting advice they gave Mr Dukakis to move towards the centre. They recognized his vulnerability to relentless campaign attacks from the Bush camp, which has portrayed him as a liberal who would cut defence and fail to stand up to Moscow.

The fact that foreign policy has become less of an issue is because Mr Dukakis has moderated his position, rather than because of any change in

Mr Bush's line. The man generally credited with the change is Professor Joseph Nye, aged 51, a former Deputy Under-Secretary of State in the Carter Administration, who is Professor of Security Affairs at Harvard University and director of the Centre for Science and International Affairs at the Kennedy School of Government.

Professor Nye, who was in London yesterday, has been one of Mr Dukakis's principal advisers on defence, arms control and international politics. His role is crucial, since the Massachusetts governor has little foreign policy experience, especially when compared with his opponent.

In coaching Mr Dukakis to resist the Bush onslaught, Professor Nye emphasized a determined, middle-of-the-road orthodoxy.

He believes in Nato, continued arms talks with the Kremlin, coupled with caution over the political upheavals in Moscow, improved conventional defence, negotiated force reductions involving asymmetrical cuts in Soviet forces, and strict adherence to the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty. With the exception of his stand on ABMs, all of this

could as well be supported by the Bush camp.

His orthodoxy, putting Dr Nye in the mainstream of current West European thinking on defence, emerged with clarity in "Nato: Building on Strength", Mr Dukakis's speech to the North Atlantic Council in the summer.

The governor needed to reassure nervous Europeans that he was not a naive "McGovernite", or an isolationist who would withdraw US troops from Europe. He emphasized his belief in the continued need for a nuclear deterrent, even if he opposed some of the land-based missiles the Reagan Administration wanted to develop.

Mr Dukakis said all the right things and scored points by insisting that he would not repeat Mr Reagan's performance at Reykjavik, where he brought all US nuclear weapons into negotiation without consulting the allies.

But he said he would take a tough line on burden-sharing, and that the US could not sustain its present high level of defence spending.

Much of this could have been Professor Nye speaking; many of the words were, indeed, his.

Thai police seal off island to trap killers

By Our Foreign Staff

Special police units, backed by marine patrols, sealed off an island east of Thailand yesterday to prevent the escape of two teenagers suspected of killing a British woman and her Irish companion.

Miss Helen Gregory, aged 24, a millionaire's daughter of Cardiff, and Miss Louise O'Reilly, aged 25, of Cavan in the Republic of Ireland, were allegedly shot dead by the two Thai teenagers on Koh Chang island on Friday.

They were robbed of cash and a camera, Colonel Chatri Ruentip, the commander of the provincial police, said. He said there was evidence of a struggle, but refused to elaborate.

"Reinforcements are quickly being sent in to arrest the two boys, who we know were responsible," Colonel Chatri said. Both women were killed with a .22 calibre pistol. Miss O'Reilly was hit in the chest, and Miss Gregory in the back, he said.

Miss O'Reilly had been in Thailand for several months with her London-born fiancé, Mr Tim Leffman. They were soon to travel to Japan to take

up teaching posts, and were expected to marry in Cavan next summer.

Louise's father, Mr Sean O'Reilly, aged 62, is the local veterinarian. She had four brothers and three sisters. He said yesterday that he understood a row had developed between the two women and two boys who were trying to rob them. The row led to the shootings.

"I am devastated by what has happened," he said. "Louise was the backbone of our family, a totally resourceful lady."

Meanwhile, on the Greek island of Corfu, two Greek brothers, Georgios and Constantinos Estomir, who run a taverna near Patrakistries, were sentenced to life imprisonment on Sunday for causing the death of Daniel Bernstein, aged 31, from Didsbury, Greater Manchester, said a Dutch friend, Bertus Rip, aged 30, in June last year.

They caught the two to drown by chasing them into rough seas with scythes and clubs as a result of an argument.

WORLD ROUNDUP

Italian pilot guilty of air show errors

Bonn (AP) — An Italian aerobatic pilot's error caused the collision of three Italian jets that killed 69 people at the US-Ramstein Air Base, a commission of inquiry said yesterday. One of the planes plunged into the crowd of 300,000 spectators and exploded in flames. Hundreds of people were injured in the crash on August 28.

The report recommended that Nato member states make a "critical reassessment of air shows in the light of this tragic accident". The report also recommended revisions in Nato directives to improve safety and a revision of manoeuvres conducted by aerobatic teams. The crash at Ramstein, in south-west Germany, prompted a temporary ban on air shows in West Germany.

Kohl's Kremlin talks

Moscow (Reuters) — President Gorbachev and Chancellor Helmut Kohl of West Germany began talks yesterday in a private Kremlin meeting expected to centre on trade and European security.

Herr Kohl arrived earlier with five ministers and 50 industrial chiefs. From the airport, where he was met by Mr Nikolai Ryzhkov, the Prime Minister, Mr Eduard Shevardnadze, the Foreign Minister, and Mr Dmitry Yazov, the Defence Minister, Herr Kohl was driven along streets lined with West German and Soviet flags to the Kremlin.

Guerrillas 'beaten'

Rome (Reuters) — Jailed Red Brigades leaders said a wave of arrests had crushed the urban guerrilla organization and it must now be transformed into a political pressure group.

In a statement, smuggled out of Rebibbia prison in Rome and published yesterday by *Il Tempo* newspaper, they said arrests this year had cut their ranks. The statement was signed by eight Red Brigades guerrillas serving long sentences for crimes including the kidnapping and killing of the former Prime Minister, Aldo Moro, in 1978.

Date for Tibet talks

Dharamsala, India (Reuters) — The Dalai Lama said yesterday that he had set a time and a place for the first official talks between the exiled Tibetan leadership and China. Details of the talks between his representatives and Chinese officials would be announced soon but he did not expect them to include plans for him to return to Tibet.

Sri Lanka curfew

Colombo — President Jayewardene's Government, faced with an escalating campaign of civil disobedience and political murders by the People's Liberation Front in the run-up to December's presidential elections, declared a curfew in the Southern and Western provinces, from midnight last night.

Surprise hostage talks

Three British MPs yesterday held surprise talks on hostages with Lebanese leaders in Beirut (Andrew McEwen writes). Mr Robert Adley, Mr Andrew Faulds and Mr Stuart Randall, visiting Syria, reportedly met Mr Hussein Hussein, outgoing speaker of the Lebanese Parliament, and planned to see Dr Salim al-Hoss, the acting Prime Minister.

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Islamic veils bring violent dispute to Egyptian campuses

From Christopher Walker, Cairo

The new university term in Egypt has opened with a violent dispute over the decision of an increasing number of female students and a smaller proportion of teachers to wear the veil as a mark of their backing for the wave of Islamic revivalism now sweeping parts of the country.

The dispute coincides with a tightening of enforcement of Islamic traditions in certain areas. During the festival at the weekend to celebrate the Prophet's birthday in Alexandria the 24-hour ban on alcohol was enforced by self-appointed vigilantes who toured bars and restaurants.

The university dispute, which has recently spread down to secondary school level, follows an unsuccessful attempt by the moderate Government of President Mubarak to ban the *neqab*, the full-face veil from all campuses.

The ban, introduced because ministers feared that the wearing of the veil, being deliberately used to reinforce support for the militants, was overturned on appeal by a Cairo court.

Two weeks ago, when the campuses reopened, the authorities

countered by insisting that all fully-veiled students revealed their faces to security guards enforcing a draconian new set of regulations designed to keep Islamic trouble-makers out of the universities, their most fertile recruiting grounds.

The new measures include the use of identity cards for all students entering campuses. Many of the female students have objected violently to being forced to lift their veils and special women guards have been brought in to enforce the checks.

In Asyut, a staunchly Islamic city in Upper Egypt, attempts by the university authorities to segregate wearers of the veil from other students resulted last week in the forced feeding of two student hunger strikers and a confrontation between Muslim extremists and 1,000 heavily armed riot police.

The opposition paper *Al-Hakik* disclosed that the protest began when some 350 partially and wholly veiled students were removed from a hostel to a more remote dormitory.

The Government treats

these fundamentalists rather like a cancer. They believe that by keeping them away from the secular students they can prevent revivalism gathering strength," a source said. "They have made it quite clear that they will do everything in their power to stamp out revivalism."

According to local residents, 200 male students in Asyut staged a sit-in at a big government hospital on the campus in solidarity with the hunger-striking women. The building was surrounded by riot police and only intensive negotiations by political mediators in the city prevented the building being stormed.

Residents said yesterday that the atmosphere on the campus, which has more than 20,000 students, was still tense with further trouble expected. In Asyut in 1981, two days after the assassination of President Sadat, Islamic extremists went on the rampage leaving more than 80 people dead, 69 of them policemen.

At Cairo University the authorities have bowed to the court verdict and agreed to permit veiled women to enter the campus.

Central America fears return of hurricane



Residents inspecting the devastated main street of the coastal town of Bluefields, Nicaragua, after Hurricane Joan swept across the Central American isthmus.

homeless by the 125 mph winds.

Joan was downgraded to a tropical storm on Sunday, but it re-emerged over the Pacific Ocean yesterday, forcing the Government of El Salvador to declare a state of emergency and evacuate residents from flood-prone coastal areas in its path.

Atlantic and Pacific hurricanes are named separately, so forecasters re-

christened the storm Miriam and said it could become the first Atlantic hurricane known to have become a Pacific hurricane.

Yesterday afternoon, the storm, with winds of up to 55 mph, was just off the coast about 75 miles south of Guatemala City and just south-east of San José.

© MANILA: Residents here and in

surrounding areas were last night warned to prepare for winds of more than 100 mph in the wake of the worst typhoon to hit the country this year. (Humphrey Hawkesley writes).

Initial reports said Typhoon Ruby might have left up to 50 people dead. An inter-island ferry with more than 400 people on board was missing. Parliament, page 12

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Controversial film on Christ

Paris 'attack' shocks minister

From Philip Jacobson, Paris

As police and firemen picked through the charred remains of the Saint-Michel cinema in Paris yesterday, the French Government expressed deep concern about the increasingly violent campaign to keep *The Last Temptation of Christ* off the nation's screens.

A British citizen, Mr. Kenneth Stevens, was among more than a dozen people suffering from burns and inhalation of smoke after the Left Bank cinema was set on fire during a late night performance of Martin Scorsese's film over the weekend. Last night he was said by a Paris hospital to be out of danger.

"I was shocked by this intolerable incident," said M. Pierre Joxe, Minister of the Interior, in the wake of what seems certain to have been another attack by the self-styled Commandos for Christ.

"Those who pretend to be defending Christianity in such a fashion are crazy," M. Joxe compared the "integrationist" wing of the French Catholic Church which has sworn to drive the Scorsese film out of the country to "the worst period of the Inquisition, when people were burned just as they were in this cinema".

From the moment it opened in the capital six weeks ago, preceded by much publicity, the film has stirred fierce passions among the ultra-traditional Catholics who are determined to reject what they see as dangerously liberal leanings in Rome.

In towns and cities all over France, protesters would gather in prayer on the pavement outside cinemas showing the film, backed by angry supporters waving banners attacking "blasphemy from Hollywood".

Their cause was hardly undermined by the decision of the official church hierarchy in France to denounce *La dernière tentation* without first going to the bother of seeing it.

On the night of the premiere, there were fierce street clashes between protesters and police. According to the

authorities, most of the demonstrators who marched with banners denouncing the film up to the Saint-Germain Montmartre, were from the bourgeoisie, aged between 25 and 40. A significant proportion were university law students.

There also appear to be links between the Commandos for Christ and fringe groups on the political far right.

After police were stationed outside Parisian cinemas showing the film, the protesters switched targets. More and more performances have been interrupted by clouds of tear gas and stink bombs, by telephoned threats and "spontaneous" demonstrations. After every show, seats were found to have been slashed or smeared with paint (sometimes worse). The cost of hiring security guards ate into profits, and there was an ever-present risk of arson attacks.

Unsurprisingly, this pressure is paying off. A similar campaign in the provinces has seen tear gas squirted on queues outside two cinemas in Lyons, where cashiers and projectionists were jostled and threatened, and a pitched battle between protesters and filmgoers in Nice.

Following an attempt to burn down a cinema in Besancon, some 60 demonstrators held a prayer meeting outside the doors. Later a fire bomb destroyed the building.

Is some shadowy central organization behind this wave of attacks? The police seem doubtful. The handful of people arrested for attacks on cinemas and other protests do not appear to be linked through specific religious or political factions.

On the other hand, leaflets assailing the film in Paris are printed by something called the Collective against Blasphemy and many of the cinemas showing it in the provinces have received identical communications warning them to search audiences before, during and after performances.

Falklands delay

Buenos Aires — The verdicts in the Falklands War hearings were postponed for about a week yesterday, after one of the six defendants, former President Galtieri, claimed he was suffering from a "heart problem" (Our Correspondent writes).

The delay came after Friday's session had been cancelled when General Galtieri, the Argentinean leader during the Falklands War, presented his sick notice just before he was due to testify in another case on political prisoners.

Nurses' pay

Paris (AFP) — French nurses, who rejected the Government's pay-rise offer of up to £70 a month, were offered improved job status and an assessment of their grievances. Their demand for a £180 increase was rejected.

Six charged

Sydney (AFP) — Six Chinese men were remanded in custody here on charges connected with a £21 million seized heroin shipment. The remnants followed raids in Sydney and Hong Kong.

Cold snap

Tokyo (AP) — Unusually cold weather in western Japan has forced bears into towns in search of food. Residents were advised to carry whistles and radios to scare them away.

Police held

New York (Reuters) — Two Mexican police officials were arrested here on conspiracy charges after allegedly bragging they could ship large amounts of heroin to New York and taking a \$8,500 downpayment from undercover agents.

Sikh is shot

Delhi (AFP) — Indian police acting on a tip-off shot dead a leading Sikh separatist, Amarjit Singh, alias Tona, wanted for several murders in northern Punjab.

Crime capital

Sydney — Ninety-nine murders, more than 1,800 rapes and 927 muggings in the past year has made Sydney one of the crime capitals of the world, police said.

Israeli voters bombarded in 'war of the generals'

From Ian Murray, Jerusalem

It has become known as 'the war of the generals' - the doves call themselves the Council for Peace and Security and the hawks are the Officers and Academics for Security and Peace.

Both say their arguments are based on purely military considerations and deny that politics play any part in their analyses. Their membership reads like a roll-call of the great and the good in the Israeli military establishment.

They are equally matched in rank and numbers, and rich in experience. They have had similar training and, to the confusion of the floating

Rushays, Lebanon (Reuters) - Israel launched an air raid on southern Lebanon targets yesterday and its forces captured seven Palestinian guerrillas on a mission to seize hostages.

Security sources and witnesses said two jets hit a military training camp of the left-wing Syrian Nationalist Social Party in the eastern Bekaa village of Beit Lahia, four miles north of Israel's self-declared security zone.

voter, have come to diametrically opposed conclusions.

The Council's 34 major-generals, 86 brigadier-generals and 115 colonels - all reservists - publish advertisements carrying their message that "security is possible without territories". Their rivals, including 180 very senior reserve officers, hold meetings and press conferences to argue that to surrender the occupied territories would endanger Israel.

The Council's argument begins simply. "Israel strives for peace", it says. "The danger of war is the main threat to national security." It does not dispute that territory has "a geographical security value". But it argues that continuing to rule a population that wants nothing to do with Israel is sapping the strength of the Army by forcing it to do police-work instead of preparing for battle.

At the same time the Council says the internal debate on the moral justification of occupation is destroying the national consensus needed to support the Army in time of

Alaska whale rescue boosts East-West relations

From James Bone
New York

Relations between the super-powers yesterday became the latest beneficiary of the publicity boom surrounding the rescue of the two surviving grey whales trapped in ice off the coast of Alaska.

At the request of the United States Government, two Soviet ice-breakers were sent to the scene. The Admiral Makarov and the Vladimir Arseniev are expected in the area today.

Tass reported that a second flotilla was also heading towards Alaska after unloading equipment at a Russian polar station. The ships are being sent under a 1976 environmental accord between Washington and Moscow.

It is not clear how the Russian ice-breakers will be able to help forward the rescue. Tass reported that the vessels need more than six fathoms of water to operate, and the whales are stranded in from two to four fathoms.

But the ice-breakers may be used to clear a channel to the open sea 200 miles away once the whales have reached clear water.

The two whales, nicknamed Crusheak and Bonnet, remained marooned more than three miles from open water yesterday as biologists began to gauge the cost of the rescue.

As ice has blocked their progress along a series of breathing holes cut in the ice by local Eskimos using chain saws, and rescuers, as a last resort, were preparing a huge



Survival cycle: Two Eskimos butchering a caribou they shot to feed themselves and their companions during a pause in their efforts to save the two whales trapped in the ice near Point Barrow, Alaska, yesterday.

net to airlift the whales to safety.

The operation to free the whales, which have been trapped for more than two weeks, is costing hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Biologists point out that, while grey whales are still officially an endangered species, their numbers have

grown to about 20,000 and the population is rising by 2.5 per cent a year. The fate of the two trapped whales will have no effect on the species, the biologists say.

But, with so much good publicity at stake, few of those involved in the rescue seem concerned about its cost.

Of all the agencies and

companies involved, only the local borough has so far disclosed how much money it has spent - \$300,000 (about £170,000) in ferrying reporters to the scene by helicopter and paying people to cut the holes in the ice.

Arco, an oil company which has donated fuel, said the cost of the operation was compar-

atively small. At the weekend, oil companies flew in a new ice cutting device, a tractor fitted with an Archimedes' screw, on board a United States Air Force cargo plane.

The rescue gives the industry a chance to combat adverse publicity about its operations at nearby Prudhoe Bay and the trans-Alaska

pipeline terminal at Valdez. Oil companies are also trying to regain the right to search for oil in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

Other companies have also joined the rescue effort to show off the de-icing equipment or chain saws they manufacture.

For the local Eskimos, traditional whale hunters who have killed 11 bowhead whales this year, the rescue provides an opportunity to show their compassion for the sea mammals.

And Greenpeace, which campaigns against whale hunting and was first to ask the Soviet Union for assistance, has succeeded in focusing world-wide attention on the plight of the whales.

ANCHORAGE: Rescuers have helped to save 27 Beluga whales that spent more than seven hours trapped in mud near Anchorage (AP reports).

The whales apparently misjudged the tide and beached themselves on a mud bar about halfway between Gardwood and Portage along the Seward Highway, south of Anchorage, on Sunday.

Dozens of people jammed the roadside to watch the silver-white creatures, ranging from about six to 16 feet in length, gently flopping on the mud, steam rising from their blowholes.

Mr Jim Diehl and Mr Riley Cronk braved the swirling currents in a kayak to spend more than an hour with the whales, pouring water on them and wrapping them in wet tarpaulins and blankets.

Unfortunately, you'll have to leave your desk to see how.

Letter from Pristina

Travellers' tales of hell on Earth

The clerks behind the marble-topped reception desk of Pristina's five-star Grand Hotel are brisk. "Room service? I'm sorry there is no room service today, goodbye Sir."

"Telephone, Sir? I'm sorry, there are no telephones today, Goodbye Sir."

The 18-storey "luxury hotel", built barely 10 years ago at the cost of millions of dinars as the flagship of Yugoslav hospitality in the province of Kosovo, has become an establishment of legendary discomfort.

Behind the nervous receptionists eagerly fielding the complaints of each new guest on arrival, a velvet-bound complaints book rests on a mahogany table. It makes grim reading: a melancholy month-by-month record of the trials of every traveller unfortunate enough to pass through Pristina.

"My bathroom has no plug," notes the neat, diplomatic hand, so masterly in its understatement, of Her Majesty's Consul-General in Zagreb.

Beneath, a West German businessman records: "My bathroom has a plug but when the water leaves the bath, it enters my bedroom."

Page after page of the harrowing experiences of the most seasoned travellers are recorded here. It is no coincidence that during the recent political crisis, only three of the 387 journalists in Belgrade braved the six-hour trip to Kosovo and a night in the Hotel Grand.

"Please remove the 16 cockroaches in my bath," wrote one of these, the correspondent of an illustrious Swedish paper. "Ash in the bed, dust in the bath, beer on the carpet," was the terse judgement of the Canadian Cultural Attaché.

With only one of its four lifts working, the walk to the 12th floor takes its toll. As one West-German salesman who had been in Pristina every year since 1983 observed, "to spend a week here is the closest thing I know to Hell on

Earth; colleagues have been destroyed by this hotel".

Unfortunately, despite the millions spent to drag what were, until 15 years ago, only a few mosques and rambling houses into the 20th century, Pristina is a one-horse town. In every respect the Grand Hotel has no rivals. Businessmen, diplomats and journalists must share the crude surroundings offered by the only hotel.

It is a perfect example of how much of the present ethnic tension here has been fuelled by decisions taken in the 1970s to build "marble palaces" rather than find employment for the province's Albanian population.

No city in the Balkans has as unreal an appearance as Pristina. Approached through a thick film of dust, its skyscrapers are first perceived as a row of jagged teeth rising up from a desert.

Where else has so much money been spent with so little result? asks Mr Hasan Ramadan, an Albanian student in Pristina.

Along with most of his contemporaries, Mr Ramadan despises the Serbs for building a concrete jungle which 10 years after its construction seems only capable of supplying jobs for the Serbs.

"We have no chance of finding jobs after we graduate. The Serbs have all the best jobs. They want us only to be backward peasants," he says.

It seems certain that eventually the failure to generate any professional future for this first-generation Albanian intelligentsia, forced to live in what it considers "alien" surroundings, will ultimately lead to another revolt against the authorities like that in 1981, when Albanian students rioted and the entire province was sealed off.

The recent provocative demonstrations organized by the 200,000 Serbs who remain in the area and are inspired by the Serbian leader, Mr Slobodan Milosevic, can only encourage this.

Richard Bassett

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along to the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre, Westminster, on November 7, 8 or 9. Bring a colleague.

Next day you'll go back to work feeling like Henry Ford after he hit on the production line idea.

To Elena Neville, WANG (UK) Limited, 1000 Great West Road, Brentford, Middx. TW8 9HL. (For ring her: 01-566 4444.) Please send me my WITS '88 registration pack, and details of the seminar programme.

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Supermarket bomb kills two as South Africa approaches segregated local elections

Soweto millionaire claims victory in face of boycott

From Michael Hornsby, Soweto

Mr Ephraim Tshabala, the burly former Mayor of Soweto, was confident yesterday that his Sofasonke party already had tomorrow's elections to the town council of South Africa's largest and most politicized black municipality sewn up.

"I think I have 70 per cent of the vote," he said in the small sitting-room of his modest township bungalow.

Starting out as a bus driver with no formal education, Mr Tshabala brought some cattle to the township 40 years ago and began a butchery business, later expanding his interests to include petrol filling stations, dry cleaning shops and a cinema. Now he is a rand millionaire.

His financial clout is visible in the fleet of 60 white minibuses, each equipped with a loudspeaker, which between October 10 and last Saturday had criss-crossed the dusty township, ferrying mainly elderly voters to the polling booths. The buses, he promised, would be out in force again on election day proper.

In a strategy designed to boost turnout above the low levels of previous elections and to counter attempts by

radical anti-apartheid groups to organize a boycott of the polls, the Government permitted 13 days of "prior voting" in addition to the polling day, October 26.

Part of the reason that Mr Tshabala's Sofasonke party (the name means "Let us stand together and die together") can be so confident of victory is that more radical groups with mass support have refused to take part in segregated elections which they consider to be an integral part of the apartheid system.

In the first government-sponsored elections in Soweto in 1978, no more than 6 per cent of registered black voters bothered to go to the polls. At the last election in 1983, when Mr Tshabala's party won 17 of the then 30 wards in the township, the turnout was hardly better at 10.7 per cent.

This time the Government has decided to pull out all the stops to boost the participation by voters to more respectable levels in Soweto, and also in another 180 black municipalities across the country where elections are taking place. For the first time, elections will also be held on the same day to white town

councils, and to subordinate mixed-race. Coloured and Indian municipal bodies, known as Management Committees and Local Authority Committees, which have even less power than their black counterparts.

Dr Nthato Motlana, a medical practitioner and president of the Soweto Civic Association, which was formed at the time of the student uprising of 1976, scornfully rejected the township poll as a sham. "The elections will in no way reflect the opinion of the people of Soweto," he said.

The Civic Association is an affiliate of the United Democratic Front, a loose alliance of hundreds of local anti-apartheid bodies which share the political aims of the outlawed African National Congress. It was one of 17 mainly black organizations banned from political activity earlier this year. But the ban is academic because the Front would have refused to take part in the election anyway.

For the past couple of years, Soweto, which has some 1.2 million inhabitants, has seen a widespread refusal by tenants of council houses to pay rent and other charges. Piles of

rubbish lining the streets testify to the breakdown of basic services.

Turning the situation to his advantage, Mr Tshabala has told voters that if his party wins control of the Soweto council it will slash charges for rent, electricity, water and rubbish collections to no more than 15 rand (£3.50) a month, a tiny fraction of what residents are supposed to pay now.

Mr Tshabala was Mayor of Soweto from 1983 to 1986. He was then ousted by other councillors after he had allowed several thousand black families from rural areas to set up an illegal squatter camp on what had once been a golf course used by Soweto's better-off residents.

He installed some portable toilets and a few water taps and charged each squatter family 35 rands a month.

To many, Mr Tshabala was a ruthless racketeer, exploiting the homeless. But many of those he exploited were glad enough to have anywhere at all to live. "If the Government built more houses, there wouldn't be any squatters," he said yesterday with irrefutable logic.



The wrecked cars and rubble left after a car bomb devastated a shopping centre yesterday in Witbank, 90 miles east of Johannesburg, killing two people and injuring at least 40.

The blast, which came two days before South Africa is due to hold segregated local elections, rocked the OK Shopping Centre in the mining town during the morning rush hour (Reuters reports).

The explosion knocked over pedestrians, lifted roofs off buildings and left streets littered with rubble for several blocks. The attack was the deadliest

since African National Congress guerrillas launched a bombing blitz aimed at disrupting the polls.

"I thought the building was going to take off," Mr Eric Viana, a shopowner, said. "Our doors were blown from the hinges."

Police said the dead were a black man and a black woman who were in the carpark of the OK Shopping Centre where the bomb exploded.

A spokesman for Witbank Hospital said that most of the injured had cuts and shrapnel wounds. One black woman lost

her left foot and two pregnant white women were among those hurt.

● Leverkusen, West Germany (AP) — White South African opponents of apartheid and leading members of the African National Congress began a four-day conference with representatives of the Soviet Union in Leverkusen yesterday.

Among those attending are Mr Frederik van Zyl Stabbert, former leader of the opposition Progressive Federal Party in South Africa, and Mr Wynand Malan, a South African MP.

Grenada after the invasion

Peace returns but prosperity eludes grateful islanders

From Alan Tomlinson in St George's, Grenada

It is Thanksgiving Day here, and most of the islanders look back with gratitude to the sight five years ago of 6,000 American troops storming ashore on their white sand beaches.

Mr Maurice Bishop, the charismatic and popular Prime Minister who led a four-year-old left-wing revolution, had been killed by hardliners in his own party. A military council of doctrinaire Marxists had seized control. The US-led invasion was for a majority of Grenadians,

benefits after the invasion but there has been little or nothing, just stagnation," laments Mr Michael Lewis, aged 30.

Few, however, appear to blame the Americans. Washington has pumped \$110 million of aid into Grenada since 1983 — about three times more than it has given to islands of comparable size. Britain has contributed about £1 million a year. New roads, telephones, round-the-clock electricity and a better water supply have transformed Grenada's infrastructure.

Yet instead of the Eastern Caribbean "showcase" envisaged by the Reagan Administration, Grenada seems to have reverted once again to a sleepy tropical backwater, another struggling micro-state with a difficult future.

Grenadians place the blame squarely on the Government they elected in 1984. Fearing re-election of the man who once dominated Grenadian politics, the eccentric and authoritarian Sir Eric Gairy,

Self-sufficiency remains a dream and prices have soared

a liberation. It was also an opportunity. It offered a chance to put Grenada on the map alongside more famous Caribbean tourist destinations and to build a prosperous new future with the flood of foreign aid that would surely follow. But while peace, freedom and democracy have been re-established, prosperity has proved elusive. The hoped-for wave of foreign investors never came. Several of those who did were so badly undercapitalized that they soon went out of business. A new industrial park has attracted four US pharmaceutical companies but they represent the only significant injection of private foreign capital.

Tourism never quite took off despite the completion of a modern airport, started by the Cubans under Bishop and finished two years ago with \$19 million (£10.7 million) in American aid.

Self-sufficiency remains a distant dream with the country running on a massive budget deficit. Prices have risen steeply, largely as a result of the introduction of value added tax. A third of the workforce is estimated to be unemployed.

While most of the 100,000 islanders appear to feel they have much to be thankful for, life for many has become harder than ever.

On a hilltop overlooking the picturesque harbour of St



Mr Blaize. Talented young ministers deserted him, whose repressive response to the left-wing challenge led to Bishop's 1979 coup, a group of moderate parties was persuaded to form a successful centrist alliance. An ageing and infirm Mr Herbert Blaize, an autocratic conservative in the old-style Caribbean mould, became Prime Minister.

He has since suffered a series of damaging defections by some of his most talented younger ministers. "There can be no doubting it. The Government has thrown away a golden opportunity to go forward and it won't come back again," said a former labour minister, Mr Francis Alexis, who created a breakaway party along with a former minister of agriculture and tourism, Mr George Brizan.

They say the Government failed to draw up a national plan or to identify development goals and strategies. The Government argues that it has achieved as much as possible. There was a need to rebuild democratic institutions first and to prepare the infrastructure to make development possible.

"The investor looked at the political situation... and until he was satisfied about our stability he was not likely to risk his investment, so it has been slow," explains Mr Albert Xavier, a top adviser to Mr Blaize and head of the island's Industrial Development Corporation.

The Government appears to have support among the buoyant business sector. The economy has grown at about 5 per cent a year since 1983. But as one businessman said, "People are still waiting and watching what the political future will be."

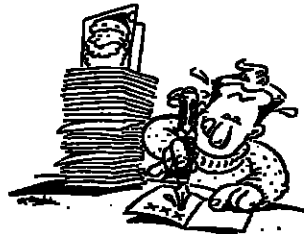
The island seems to have reverted to a tropical backwater

George's the burnt-out shell of Butler House remains one of the few visible relics of the invasion. The Government had hoped to find an investor to turn the former government office building into a hotel.

A family of squatters were the only takers. "We haven't got anywhere else to go," says Mrs Shirley John, aged 29, whose husband, Randolph Henry, is an unemployed labourer. Lacking light and water, they now live above an office once occupied by Bishop, whose Administration, they say, brought them better times. "I think it was a little better than now," recalls Mrs John. "We used to get a little food more regular, a little job more regular. Now it's very hard."

Groups of jobless youngsters hang out around the docks below, selling postcards to tourists from visiting cruise ships. "We expected more

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 Blue slim hide leather wallet (empty) £19.99.
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 Holiday organiser starter pack £6.99.
 AS WITH GO (1 day per page and appointments) book diary £4.50.
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 The BEATRIX POTTER ENGAGEMENT diary for 1989 £7.95.
 Beatrix Potter engagement diary £7.95.
 Mottled black empty pvc binder £6.99.
 WHS 10 slimline (month to a view) diary £1.75.
 Sheaffer TR2 55 metallic blue ballpoint £10.50.

Prices correct at time of going to press. Subject to availability.

You may remember the early hours of 16th October last year.

Gary and Margaret Roady most certainly do.

It was just before dawn when disaster struck.

Mr Roady thought he was seeing stars.



He was.

A 200 ft tree had crashed straight through the roof, carving their home in half.

The lights went out and the rain poured in.

The Roadys knew it was time to leave.

At 7.45 that same morning the phone rang in Brian Croll's office.

Mr Croll, we should mention, is a claims supervisor with Commercial Union.

In the light of the storms, he had gone into work early and was at his desk when Mr Roady called.

Within the hour our local loss adjuster was battling to the scene. And by 9am the first claims report was being penned from under canvas at the Roady homestead.

That night, with a crowd of 500 well-wishers cheering them on, our hired team of arborists (lumber-jacks by any other name) swung among the branches harnessed to wires, and hitched the tree to their crane, supported by a 50 tonne truck.

The Roadys were left with £50,000 worth of damage to their home and a lifetime's supply of firewood.

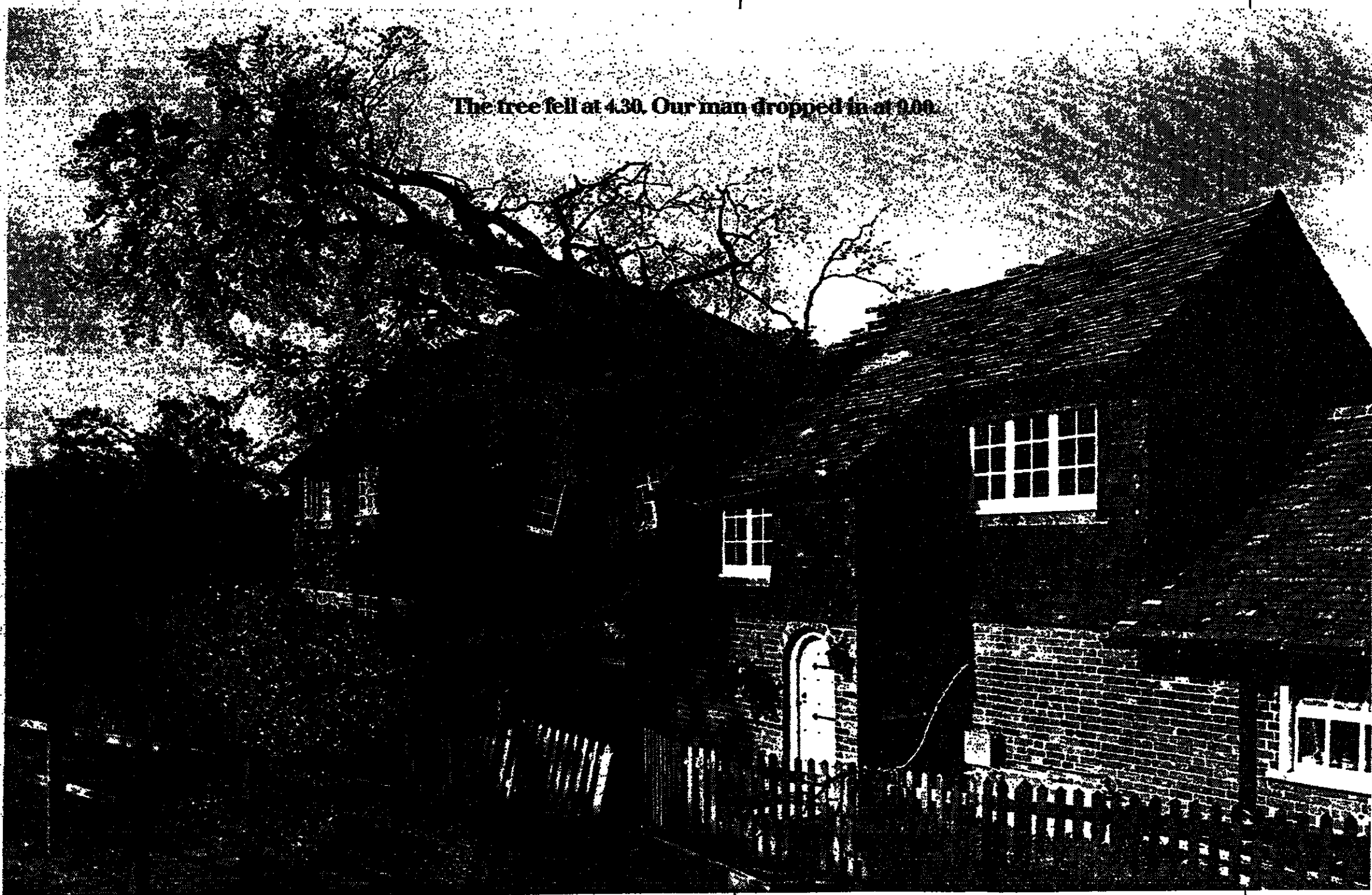
In the months that followed they had no mains electricity. We immediately organised a generator.

They had no kitchen. We paid the extra cost of eating out.

We even offered to put them up in an hotel. But for the Roadys, there was no place like home.

So they stayed put and we paid all the repair bills as and when they came in.

The restoration of their 18th century converted coach-house is now complete.



The tree fell at 4.30. Our man dropped in at 9.00.

And the Roadys' £50,000 claim has been met in full.

But that's not quite the end of the story.

Last month Mr Roady received a further bill for almost £1,000 for roof repairs.

His builder apologised. He was months behind with his invoicing.

Mr Roady called Mr Croll at Commercial Union and explained his dilemma.



Both men agreed that since the claim had been fully settled, a further payment would be out of the ordinary.

"But not out of the question", said Mr Croll, reaching for his pen. **We won't make a drama out of a crisis.**

October 24 1988

PARLIAMENT

Spycatcher case money well spent, says Mayhew

There were loud Opposition protests when Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Attorney General, told the Commons that the Law Lords had, in the *Spycatcher* case, entirely vindicated the Government's action.

He said during question time that the House of Lords had established unequivocally the very principles for which the Government had always contended.

In this new field for the application of the law relating to confidentiality, important principles for which the Government had contended had been established.

"We shall implacably seek their enforcement and application in any future case. It is money well spent."

He told MPs that on October 13 the House of Lords had refused permanent injunctions against relevant newspapers.

The judgement made clear that this was solely due to the wide publication of the book abroad, constituting, in the words of Lord Keith of Kinkel, the senior law lord, heinous treachery by Mr Wright that would have been restrained by the courts in this country.

The law lords had held that the lifelong duty of confidentiality bound all members and former members of the security services and that save in exceptional circumstances newspapers were not free to publish confidential material.

Mr David Winnick (Walsall North, Lab) said that the victory of the newspapers in this case was a victory for press freedom.

Would any further legal action be taken against the book being published here? Had not enough money, more than £1 million, been wasted in this case?

Under the Government proposals for changing the Official Secrets Act, it would be virtually impossible for newspapers to publish details of alleged wrongdoing and abuse by the security service.

Newspapers in an open and democratic society had a duty and responsibility to reveal such abuses. The Government was more concerned with covering up abuses than in allowing newspapers the freedom they all cherished.

Sir Patrick: So far as possible publication is concerned, the speeches of the law lords are publicly available. It is for all concerned to take their own legal advice.

As regards the expenditure of public money, it is disgraceful that Mr Wright's treachery made the expenditure necessary, but in this new field for the application of the law relating to confidentiality, important principles for which the Government had contended have now been established.

We shall implacably seek their enforcement and application in any future case. It is therefore money well spent.

Mr Richard Shepherd (Aldridge-Brownhills, C) said that he was glad Sir Patrick had conceded that the Government had lost. Lord Goff had said that it was a misuse of the injunction procedure.

Would the Government take on board two contentions, one by Lord Griffiths on public interest defence and also the judgement in respect of prior publication. Did these have implications for the reform of the Official Secrets Act?

Sir Patrick: I and the Government will take on board every aspect and every speech in this case and will not seek to put a gloss upon them.

I should draw to Mr Shepherd's attention, in view of his implicit criticism, to the concluding remarks of Lord Keith.

He said this: "In the first place, I regard this case as having established that members and former members of the security service do have a lifelong obligation of confidentiality owed to the Crown and those who breach it such as Mr Wright are guilty of treachery just as heinous as that of some of the spies he excoriates in his book."

"The case has also served a useful purpose in bringing to light the problems that arise

when the obligation of confidentiality is breached by publication abroad."

So far as there may be any implications for the Government's announced reforms of the Official Secrets Act, that is matter for the Home Secretary.

Mr John Morris, Opposition spokesman on legal affairs, asked Sir Patrick to confirm that it was only because of his inability to prosecute Wright in this country that fruitless and expensive actions were commenced in Australia and New Zealand.

Would the advice be the same if the need arose in the future for the same kind of action to be commenced in foreign jurisdictions?

Was it because of, or in spite of, the law officers' advice, that the Wright case was pursued right to the bitter end?

"It is time for a proper independent machinery to be set up to supervise the security services, machinery that we can have confidence in, to ensure that whatever actions Wright and his colleagues took, it will never, never again be repeated."

Sir Patrick: It is of course the case that the absence of Mr Wright from this jurisdiction made it impossible to bring any prosecution.

As to any future publication outside this jurisdiction, the law lords have drawn attention to the fact that we cannot look to foreign courts to protect even the publication of very serious secrets.

Lord Keith at the end of his judgement said that there is no reason to doubt that secrets concerned with matters of great current importance would receive any different treatment in foreign courts.

He therefore had gone on to say this: "Consideration should be given to the possibility of some international agreement aimed at reducing the risk to collective security involved in the present state of affairs."

I would have hoped to have heard from Mr Morris some concern for the preservation of the confidentiality of matters of this kind.



Mr David Trippier, Under-Secretary of State for the Environment, laying a foundation stone yesterday for a homes project in Bolton; it is the first project under the Government's city grants scheme

Minister's confidence in management

BR sale talk 'causing concern'

Constant talk about privatizing British Rail was causing concern about the future of non-profitable lines, Mr Robert Hughes, chief Opposition spokesman on transport, said in the Commons.

"All these leaks to the press do nothing at all for the morale of British Rail and the Secretary of State is putting a blight on all initiatives by British Rail."

"If he wishes to discuss this matter, would he discuss it with the House of Commons instead of lobby correspondents?"

His comments came during question-time exchanges about the future of British Rail and the report in *The Times* today about options for returning British Rail to the private sector.

Mr Michael Portillo, Minister of State for Transport, suggested that Mr Hughes could initiate a debate in the House.

He had every confidence in British Rail's management was forward-looking and effective, and he had been impressed by it.

Mr James Cran (Beverley, C) said that British Rail's costing appeared to have been achieved

RAILWAYS

at the expense of the consumer in poor time-keeping, overcrowding and dirty carriages.

In view of that, and the deficit, and as British Rail was incapable of maintaining a link between Humberstone and London, and it appeared, with almost every other part of the country, the minister should bring forward the privatization of British Rail, because that could hardly be worse.

Mr Portillo said that Mr Cran should pursue such matters with British Rail, which set targets for punctuality, cleanliness and overcrowding. Privatization was an option they were considering.

Mr Charles Kennedy (Ross, Cromarty and Skye, Dem) asked about the report in *The Times* about the five different options for privatization.

"Will the minister indicate whether discussions are being held with the chairman of British Rail with a view to

offering any degree of security to railway lines in the north of Scotland and the Highlands?"

"Many of us with local knowledge find it hard to believe that any system of privatization would lead to security for those vital railway lines."

Mr Portillo: We have given an undertaking that we are not looking at wide proposals for closure.

British Rail intends to choose a preferred route to the Channel tunnel by next year, Mr Paul Channon, Secretary of State for Transport, said at question time.

"I welcome this speeding up of the timetable, which will reduce the effects of blight on Kent."

By the same time British Rail would also announce the results of its approach to private-sector partners on construction of the line.

Mr Hughes said that if private capital would be attracted to British Rail projects because it could make money out of them, why did Mr Channon not encourage British Rail to invest and make money.

Mr Channon said that investment in the railways was higher in real terms than in any year since 1970 and was increasing.

Mr Simon Burns (Chelmsford, C): Will the minister draw the attention of the chairman of British Rail to the urgency of something being done to stop the disastrous scenes on many evenings at Liverpool Street Station, London, where City lager louts are terrorizing commuters to Chelmsford and Southend?

Mr Portillo: I know that the chairman is extremely concerned about that.

Mr Robert McCrindle (Brentwood and Ongar, C) asked if there were plans to discuss with British Rail or London Regional Transport the "worrying development" of the arrival of the American vigilante group, the Guardian Angels.

Would the minister agree with the British Transport Police that this was potentially dangerous?

Mr Portillo said that if there was any shortage in resources the transport police would let the Government know.

Tribute paid to cruise pupils

Tributes were paid during questions to the British schoolchildren who survived the sinking last Friday of the Greek liner *Jupiter*, and condolences offered to the relatives of the two missing Britons.

Concern was expressed by Mr David Winnick (Walsall North, Lab) at reports that the ship was 27 years old and "not as safe as it should be". He asked Mr Paul Channon, Secretary of State for Transport, if he would receive a report on the cruise ship.

Mr Channon said that the whole House would send deepest sympathy to the families and those involved, British and Greek.

The Greek authorities had started a full inquiry into the tragic episode and "we will keep in the closest touch with them."

£5.4m cost of Downing St

The cost to public funds of the Prime Minister's offices, duties, accommodation, and expenses during 1987-88 was £5,451,853, Mrs Thatcher said in a written Commons reply.

The figure included salaries and wages and administration costs, but not Mrs Thatcher's pay and allowances as an MP.

In another reply, the Prime Minister put the cost of maintaining and running 10 Downing Street and additional costs at Chequers at £5,418,455, a figure which excludes her salary as Prime Minister.

Mrs Thatcher said in a further reply that the Prime Minister's cost of entertainment was £9,756 for 1987-88, and the estimated cost for this year was £21,250, but that was being calculated on a different basis and was not comparable with previous years.

Tenders for new ship

The Ministry of Defence invited tenders yesterday for an aviation support ship to provide helicopter lift for amphibious operations around the world. Bids must be in by July next year. The order is not expected to be placed before 1990.

Peer returns

Peers welcomed the return to the Upper House of Lord Callaghan of Cardiff, who had been taken to hospital last week while attending the memorial service of the late Lord Pearl.

Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Questions: Employment; Prime Minister; Debate on Opposition motion on the state of the economy. Lords (2.30): Health and Medicines Bill, third reading; Housing Bill, report, second day.

Minister is asked to use Belize troops to aid Nicaragua

Britain is to give £250,000 for disaster relief in Nicaragua and other countries affected by Hurricane Joan, Mr Christopher Patten, Minister for Overseas Development, told the Commons.

In reply to a private notice question, Mr Patten said that the money would be channelled through international agencies such as the Red Cross and the United Nations Relief Office, as well as British voluntary agencies such as Oxfam.

This was in addition to the £10,000 authorized at the weekend for the ambassador as an immediate cash contribution to meet local needs.

Britain would contribute a further £86,000 to a European Community relief fund of £430,000 for Costa Rica and Nicaragua. He was ready to

contribute to requests for assistance from any of the countries, including Nicaragua, which were suffering from the hurricane.

Miss Joan Lester, Opposition spokesman on overseas development, welcomed the increase from £10,000 and Mr Patten's announcement that he was open to further requests.

Would the Government use its good relations with the US to persuade them to accept the democratically elected government of Nicaragua? After the last big earthquake, the US-sponsored civil war and now the hurricane, the people of Nicaragua needed peace more than ever before. The hurricane was on top of all the other disasters that Nicaragua had faced and these things stood in the way of effective assistance.

Would Mr Patten consider using the garrison in Belize? Did it have a role to play?

Mr Patten said that first reports had given a wrong impression of Britain's overall contribution to disaster relief. The £10,000 was the customary amount for immediate relief.

The precise scale of the devastation was not yet clear. The hurricane appeared to have hit the Atlantic coast with particular force where it had done greatest damage. It had done less damage as it moved across the country and had now taken off up the Pacific coast under another name.

The Government, like other European Community governments, supported the peace process in Central America.

There had been no request for the use of the garrison in Belize.

HURRICANE

The Government would deal with any requests as promptly and helpfully as it could.

Mr Patten said later that preparedness for hurricanes was particularly important and the Government had just allocated \$250,000 to the United Nations for a study which one of its organizations was doing on preparedness in the Caribbean.

He hoped that would help countries in the region to prepare more adequately to limit hurricane damage.

Mr David Steel, head of the Democratic foreign affairs team, said that Britain's own regular programme had declined quite considerably from about £400,000 10 years ago to about

£100,000 now. "So there is scope for being generous."

Mr Patten should look at reports coming in about the economic disaster to the cotton and coffee crops on which Nicaragua depended for exports. Expert aid should be given in addition to cash aid.

Mr Patten agreed that Britain's bilateral aid programme to Nicaragua had peaked 10 years ago when the Labour Government gave £400,000 to the Somoza regime.

Britain's main contribution to Nicaragua now was multilateral, through the EEC. In 1986, the EEC programme had been about \$9.2 million, of which Britain contributed about 20 per cent.

Mr John Fraser (Norwood, Lab) said that Lambeth was twinned with Bluefields, Nicaragua.

The Government should consider matching private contributions made to the disaster fund initiated by such boroughs.

A problem in Jamaica and Nicaragua was that a hurricane cut foreign exchange income from tourism and cash crops. Would the Government make sufficient foreign exchange available?

Mr Patten said that matching was done already, through the joint funding scheme. Aid had been increased 200 per cent in the past two or three years.

Foreign exchange had been one of a problem with Jamaica where there was a more substantial tourist industry than in Nicaragua. But obviously, contributions made in sterling by outside donors were of some help to the foreign exchange

position of countries being helped.

Miss Dawn Primarolo (Bristol South, Lab) said that Bluefields, which had existed since 1620 and had British connections, might have to be abandoned as a community.

Massive aid should be made available now to the Atlantic coast region through the Overseas Development Administration, and the use of Belize should be considered. The possibility of having an emergency unit in the ODA should be examined.

Mr Patten said that the situation would be kept under review.

Mr Tony Banks (Newham North West, Lab) said the amount announced today was "pathetic" in comparison with the problems in Nicaragua.

Laws to be monitored for bias

By Martin Fletcher, Political Reporter

All future legislation is to be monitored by the Government to ensure that it does not discriminate against women, it was announced yesterday.

All legislative proposals will be considered against a "checklist" of questions designed to expose areas of potential discrimination on the grounds of gender or marriage.

The new procedure was agreed yesterday afternoon by



Mr Patten: An important step towards equality

the Ministerial Group on Women's Issues which was set up by Mr Douglas Hurd, the Home Secretary, in 1986 and comprises ministers from 11 Whitehall departments.

Mr John Patten, the Home Office minister who chairs the group, said the move was an important step towards reinforcing the Government's commitment to promoting equality of opportunity and eliminating sex discrimination.

"It is important that civil servants recognize the equal opportunities aspects of policy proposals," he said. "We have asked departments to ensure that all proposals comply with the Government's legal obligations, and that their impact on women is fully understood."

MP will pay for repair of mace

By Richard Ford, Political Correspondent

A left-wing Labour MP promised yesterday to pay the £1,175 cost of repairing the mace which he tossed to the floor of the House of Commons during a late night dispute.

The House of Commons authorities have sent Mr Ron Brown the bill for £1,175 85p with a request that he should pay it either by cheque or deductions from his salary.

Mr Brown, the Labour MP for Leith, said yesterday "I will be paying the bill in full. Mind you, at the price quoted I am sure that several maces could have been made."

The MP, who had his party's whip withdrawn after the re-

fused to apologize for the incident and also lost his sponsorship by the Amalgamated Engineering Union, added: "I am not conceding. For if the repairs gave employment to British engineers, this is an added bonus, particularly if they were AEU members."

But Mr Brown said that people should not forget that he had picked up the mace in protest against Tory cuts in social security benefits, saying Parliament had become a rubber stamp for oppression.

Two days after the incident in April, Mr Brown was suspended from the Commons for 20 days when he failed to apologize.

to speed the relocation of civil servants away from the capital so that they are more evenly spread throughout the United Kingdom.

It issued a guidance note to ministers at the start of this year's public spending round. The note offered the incentive of extra funds from the Exchequer to help fund the initial costs of re-organizing departments outside London in exchange for the prospect of lower running and staff costs and easier recruitment and retention of staff within a few years.

The pressure on ministers is greater where leases are due to expire and departments are faced with making a decision on renewing it or finding a new site.

The combination of soaring housing costs around the capital and the advent of new technology has strengthened the case for re-location, even though many Whitehall-based civil servants - and their families - are strongly opposed to uprooting to

Building research to become agency

By Our Political Reporter

Mr Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for the Environment, disclosed yesterday that the Government's Building Research Establishment is likely to be given executive agency status.

The establishment is located at Garston in Watford and employs 700 people.

Its purpose is to advise on building technology and fire prevention and control and it has recently been restructured along more commercial lines after an independent review.

Mr Ridley said in a Commons written answer that he would be drawing up detailed proposals for giving off the BRE and

hoping that it would have agency status by April, 1990.

It would be his department's fourth potential agency after the Historic Royal Palaces, the Royal Parks and the Queen Elizabeth II conference centre.

The move comes after the Prime Minister's announcement last February that wherever possible the executive functions of the Government should be carried out by agencies.

They would have their own chief executives who would be responsible for day-to-day management within a policy and resources framework determined by ministers.

"At a time when salaries, wages, property costs and other overheads are considerably higher in London than elsewhere, the free market, Thatcherite solution must be to transfer all those jobs that need not be in London to other parts of England, to Scotland, to Wales and to Ulster."

Mrs Thatcher is known to be impressed by his report of a shift of 500 Overseas Development staff to East Kilbride with accumulated savings of £16.8 million.

However, the study of the move carried out for the Scottish Office by Strathclyde University showed that only 100 civil servants transferred and local people.

Mr Christopher Patten, Minister for Overseas Development, is transferring another 300 posts from Whitehall to the former Royal Naval dockyard at Chatham by next Easter.



Mr Jim Sillars canvassing in Govan for the nationalists (Photograph: Tom Kidd)

Govan by-election

Rifkind attacks favourites

Voters in the forthcoming Govan by-election had in their hands Glasgow's image as a dynamic centre of regeneration, Mr Malcolm Rifkind, the Secretary of State for Scotland, said yesterday (Kerry Gill writes).

Mr Rifkind launched the Conservative campaign with an attack on the two favourites, Mr Bob Gillespie, of Labour, and Mr Jim Sillars, of the Scottish National Party.

He said both men were leaving radicals who told voters they were prepared to break the law and refuse to pay the community charge when it came into operation in Scotland next April.

He accused both men of wanting to be the "Derek Hattons of Glasgow", defying laws they did not approve of. Such actions, Mr Rifkind said, could do the whole city grave damage.

"Glasgow has benefited immeasurably in recent years because, whatever the political differences, there has been no law breaking and no extremism," he said. "As a result,

the city has a reputation for moderation and commonsense and that has been of enormous importance in attracting investment."

"That reputation is now in danger of being shattered by the two candidates who are each seeking a mandate on the basis of their pledge to break the law. The people of Govan have Glasgow's international reputation in their hands."

The Tories are aware that the poll will be one of the most important issues in the by-election campaign. They believe that they can turn it into an electoral advantage by dwelling on the fact that Labour and the SNP candidates have publicly taken their position outside the law.

Whether they can succeed in winning the seat is another matter, Labour has a 19,500 majority and the Tories will have to struggle to return a respectable result, let alone a victory.

Mr Rifkind said optimistically that the nationalists were losing ground and that the

Tories must be seen as the main challengers.

Mr Graeme Hamilton, the Conservative candidate, said the Tory campaign was gaining ground. "We are going to make sure that Conservative policies are seen to be working in Scotland."

This week leaders of Sinn Fein will decide whether they should nominate a candidate to fight the seat in an attempt to circumvent the Government broadcasting ban on extremist groups.

Mr Rifkind said the electors of Govan would give short shrift to a Sinn Fein candidate who would be seen as negative, irrelevant and divisive.

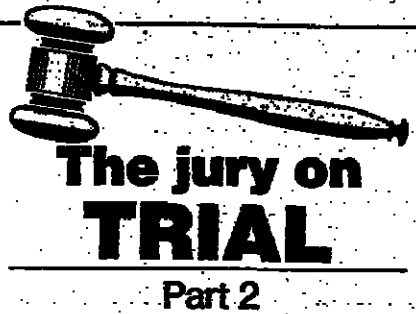
The by-election has been caused by the resignation of the sitting MP, Mr Bruce Millan, to take up a position as one of Britain's two EEC commissioners.

Polling takes place on November 10.

Govan Election, June 1987: B. Millan (Lab), 24,071; S. Hamilton (Con), 19,500; J. Sillars (SNP), 19,500; J. Rifkind (Con), 19,500.

SPECTRUM

Justice by lottery?



Juries are supposed to represent a cross-section of society, Frances Gibb reports. So why do

they contain so few professional people, and how can we improve the way they are selected?

The jury selection system is primitive and prone to produce unrepresentative and even bizarre juries, according to evidence which has been assembled by the Criminal Bar Association (CBA).

Its material — much of it previously unpublished and representing the first detailed insight into the machinery for selecting juries in England and Wales — was obtained after the association was given unprecedented access to information from the Lord Chancellor's officials.

It concludes that the present system has many defects which produce juries that are often far from being a random cross-section of the community.

Chief among its concerns are that the discretion to excuse people from jury service is now so wide that people with property, education and wide experience are under-represented; that there is no statutory literacy requirement for jurors; and that the selection of jury panels, and of individual jurors from the panels, is haphazard and primitive.

It also fears that when the defence's right to challenge jurors without giving a reason is lost in January, the Crown's right of challenge, combined with its resources for vetting jurors, will create an imbalance in favour of the prosecution.

Mr David Cocks, QC, chairman of the CBA, who is a part-time judge, as are a number of its members, denies that there is any "crisis of confidence in the jury". But he feels there is a need to look to make sure it is working properly and that jury selection is "fair and random".

The initial selection of jurors from the electoral register is done by the Lord Chancellor's officers. The aim is to achieve a random selection, while minimizing the likelihood of close neighbours being called together. The elaborate numerical systems employed vary slightly between London and the provinces.

The CBA believes that the system is extraordinarily primitive. Although those who operate it do so with the best of intentions, it does not involve computer technology and, according to anecdote, it tends to produce unrepresentative juries. Cocks argues that a more modern selection system, in which people were designated by jobs, sex and ethnic origin, would ensure a more statistically verifiable cross-section.

Although this would not guarantee that a jury would be more representative, it would at least provide a better starting point, he says. It would help avoid the problems caused by selection by constituency areas, which can result in jurors predominantly from one social class.

But the Lord Chancellor's officials dispute that computers would improve the system. It could be difficult, they say, to make it compatible with those used by councils for the electoral registers, and there would also be a huge amount of work involved in inputting the data.

The CBA's main concern is that it is far too easy to be excused from jury service. They feel that, at least, judges and jury summoning officers

'We lose people who ought to serve, and get the jobless and the manual workers'

should operate the system uniformly. Cocks argues that one of the causes of imbalance is the operation of too much discretion by summoning officers at an early stage in the selection process. "It means we are losing a lot of people — members of the professional classes, businessmen — who ought to be serving. We tend to end up, in long cases, with a strong proportion of the unemployed and manual workers."

In his view, jury service ought to be more like National Service, with a strong obligation on people to serve at least once. The CBA also claims that summoning officers, chief clerks and judges all exercise additional discretion over the make-up of the jury, by splitting the panel of people available into mini-panels to serve each court in a complex case, and then selecting a jury from that mini-panel.

The association questions

whether the practice of some court clerks in shuffling the jurors' name cards and then drawing them out could strictly be called a proper ballot under the terms of the Juries Act. The Lord Chancellor's Department claims that there is a strict procedure laid down which court clerks must follow. The CBA wants both the dividing of the panel, and the balloting in open court, to be made more mechanical and uniform.

Judges also have power to vary the make-up of the panel or the jury. In, for instance, cases with a racial content, they can stand jurors down and have them replaced to produce a racially mixed jury.

In the Bristol riots case it was held that it was legitimate to use this procedure. But some judges refuse to do it on the ground it breaches the principle of random selection. The CBA argues that such judicial interference is justifiable, if panels are randomly selected and balloting correctly done.

Another, less extreme, practice has grown up — to which the CBA does not object — in which jurors in politically, religiously or racially sensitive cases are asked generally about their beliefs, relationships and affiliations, and might be asked to stand down.

The discharge of a jury at the Central Criminal Court earlier this month after one of the jurors admitted he did not understand a word of English has highlighted the problems of qualification for jury service. Indeed, there is no minimum requirement that jurors even be able to read and write, although the Lord Chancellor's Department says they must be able to understand spoken English. According to the CBA, it is often found in cases that contain many documents that a juror cannot read properly or at all. This is counterproductive for prosecution and defence.

Cocks says: "It seems to be totally monstrous. At present it is a question of relying on officials having willed people out, or on the Crown's perception of them before they take the oath so they can be challenged."

The Roskill Committee on fraud trials said it was imperative that jurors be able to read and write English without difficulty and the CBA is now urging legislation to make this the law. But without reforms in these areas, there is a danger that the system will grow increasingly discredited, and that there will be even more pressure to limit the right of an accused person.

THE HIGH PRICE OF PROTECTION FROM THE NOBBLERS

Fear of "tainted" juries which have been threatened or bribed is costing millions of pounds each year in protection operations or aborted trials.

Scotland Yard investigates four or five cases of serious nobbling allegations each year. A lengthy Mafia drugs trial at the Central Criminal Court last year ended with a bill of £1.5 million for the protection of the jury, a quarter of the entire estimated cost of the case. In the first nine months of this year alone, protection totalling 9,606 man-days was given to four other London juries, compared with 3,588 man-days for the whole of 1987. Between March and September, payments for protection teams have cost the Yard £308,000. Given such pressures, the Yard has set up a working party to streamline the system.

In recent years the London underworld has buzzed with rumours that nobbling has become such a big and profitable business that organized gangs have set themselves up to cater for a growing number of major criminals fearful of being sent to prison. Senior officers say that such gangs do not exist. Research and intelligence has not uncovered any such operation.

The nobblers face a formidable task. They must reach at least three jurors to achieve a hung jury, or find highly-persuasive jurors who can sway the rest. Nobbling can also be used as a delaying tactic. Clumsy approaches may be made to a group of jurors just before the end of the trial with the intention of forcing a retrial where the defence will know the full

strength of the prosecution case and the weakness of witnesses.

From the public gallery the nobbler can identify possible targets — a juror who looks bored, or someone who might identify with the man in the dock. An examination of the juror's lifestyle might then confirm that he or she is likely to respond to an approach. The nobblers might also watch the jurors in canteens or bars at lunchtime, listening to conversation and picking out those who might seem sympathetic. Once the targets are identified, the nobblers move in. The bait is usually money. Threats are likely to drive the jurors to tell the court.

Exactly how many successful approaches are made remains unknown outside the underworld. But police know that the first line of defence is to make the juror less vulnerable by keeping him or her out of public sight. To this end, courts are being redesigned and jurors are being encouraged to take their breaks and lunch in the building rather than go outside.

A hot-line system has also been set up by the Yard to provide instant telephone contact and a police response for cases where a jury might be nervous about approaches. The telephone number will be given out by judges.

The final protection for a juror is a 24-hour police guard. In London this now costs £65,000 a week per jury, using a total of 72 men. So far this year the Yard has provided guards for five cases.

Stewart Tendler

Tomorrow: A better class of juror

New Words for Old will return next Tuesday



Too close for comfort? At a trial challenges can produce a jury so sympathetic that (inset), after an acquittal, the jurors and the defendants celebrate together

THE DANGERS OF A SYSTEM UNDER WHICH CROOKS CAN SIT IN JUDGMENT ON CROOKS

Gilbert Gray, QC, the distinguished defence barrister, reduced a legal dinner to paroxysms of laughter recently with one of his jury stories.

He related how "12 good men and true" were selected and asked to wait at the back of the court while another matter was cleared up. The judge then invited them to "take their rightful place". "To a man," Gray recalls, "they climbed into the dock."

Like all tall stories, it is the element of truth which makes it funny. Cases of criminals sitting in judgment on their fellow man are reported regularly.

The belief that a jury consists of a cross-section of society is no longer valid. One third of the 15,000 people selected for service in the Greater London area every month

are excused before they get to court and many more are stood down — most of them from the middle and upper classes.

Everyone on the electoral roll aged between 18 and 65 (70 from next year) is qualified to serve as a juror, if he has lived in this country for five years since the age of 13.

Thousands are automatically excused, including all those involved in the administration of justice and the medical professions. Members of both Houses of Parliament, the clergy, the armed forces, and the mentally disordered are also excluded. In addition, thousands more seek exemption every month for reasons varying from holidays to vital business meetings. The Lord Chief Justice has further recently ordered that people may be considered for excusal on the ground of "conscientious objection".

A change in the law next year will formally endorse the practice of people who have been excused having their service "deferred". This should ensure that their services are not permanently lost.

The defence's right of peremptory challenge of jurors, which is about to be withdrawn, has often been used to remove members of the professional classes who they believe might be unsympathetic to their clients.

The classic example of what can happen occurred at Knightsbridge Crown Court earlier this year when alleged members of a gang of football hooligans known as the "Chelsea Headhunters" appeared for trial.

Officials sent 105 potential jurors to the court. Sixty one gave excuses why they could not serve and were "stood by". Of the remaining 44 jurors, 23 were chal-

lenged by the defence. Those who were finally selected were acceptable to the defence and could not think of an excuse to avoid service.

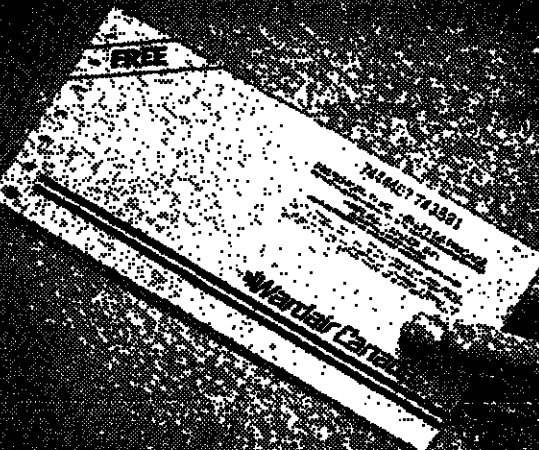
At the end of the case, members of the jury were photographed enjoying a drink with the defendants after they had been cleared on the judge's direction.

The greatest danger to justice must remain, however, the risk of criminals judging their fellows.

The worst example remains the case of the man with 15 convictions who served on three juries at Snaresbrook Crown Court, in East London. He succeeded in becoming foreman of two of the juries and announced his yardstick of justice as: "All defendants are not guilty, unless they have been molesting kids."

Tony Dawe

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PARIS FASHION by Liz Smith

Sonia Rykiel celebrates the 20th birthday of the little black sweater

While the rest of her fellow designers show ready-to-wear collections in Paris this week, Sonia Rykiel (right) unveils clothes she describes as "prêt à vivre" — ready to live.

Rykiel, her fine-boned face surrounded by a halo of tian hair, is dressed today, as every day, in a simple black sweater. Body-skimming, easy, flattering, its scoop of a neckline frames her face. This sweater, which she has re-invented by the thousand, is scattered with rhinestones. She moves gracefully in the matching jersey skirt. Matt black tights, black satin pumps, the rhinestone-studded bag she carries is as much a jewel to her as the heavy earrings.

It is exactly 20 years since Rykiel opened her first little shop in the rue de Grenelle in Paris and provided women with a uniform for modern life. It is a milestone she celebrated on Sunday, surrounded by family and friends at a small dinner party after her show, where the same little sweaters and skirts, cardigans and soft trousers eased on to stretchy waistbands were given a fresh sprinkling of twinkling gems and an edging of gold coins.

Messages such as "étiole de mer" or "Very English" were inscribed on them. It is a collection created for women who want clothes that free them to get on with the other, more important things in their lives.

"I am a woman who lives like other women," Rykiel says. "We are unified by a uniform. Only then can the differences and individual personalities and beauty be revealed. All women do not choose to wear a uniform. You must be strong with a clear image of yourself. I have 40 sweaters like this. Each one is different but it is my uniform."

Words flow from Rykiel — in commentaries on her design philosophy intoned always by her at the earlier shows held in the tiny Left Bank shop, and incorporated in her knitwear designs, and in her books. Her first, published in 1979, was called *And I Would Have Preferred Her Naked*.

In *Rykiel*, her second book, she shared her "recipes" for life ("If you are beautiful, make the most of it; if you are not beautiful, play it up"). She included a recipe for chocolate mousse. She is a self-confessed chocoholic and is a member of the club of "Croqueurs de Chocolat".

She has realized her earlier ambition to be a writer with a stream of sketches and thoughts with which she fills the notebooks that she always carries. "It is



A fresh uniform for life

necessary to have a dialogue with my designs. Through them I tell a story. Writing makes the creation of fashion more strong, and vice versa."

She was decorated with the Croix des Arts et des Lettres in March 1983 and made a Chevalier of the Legion d'Honneur by President Mitterrand in 1985. She is celebrating her 20th anniversary year by expanding her worldwide network of shops and establishing a new cosmetic and skin care range. Night and Day, launched in Japan earlier this year and in Paris this month.

It is significant that 1968, the year of burgeoning feminism and student unrest on Paris streets, was the year that

Rykiel opened her first shop. Her knitwear — moulded to the breasts with narrowed sleeves and often made to be worn inside out with over-locked seams on show and with knots and bows and matching mufflers tossed around at random — became a declaration of fashion freedom. In her trousers, cropped and gracefully wide, women were able to stride out, their image of themselves changed and strengthened forever.

Rykiel's first sweater, made a few years earlier after a foray into fashion with maternity dresses when she was pregnant, immediately made the cover of *Elle* magazine. "I knew nothing about fashion," she remembers. "I did it all instinctively. Women understood and wanted what I created."

Now 58, and a grandmother, Rykiel is happiest sketching and writing surrounded by the things and people she loves. Home is a navy lacquered apartment with black sofas, masses of mirrors and books everywhere.

In her main black office, a few steps down the same street, her life still revolves around her family. Her son is a musician. Her daughter, Nathalie, works in the company and is married to Simon Burstein, son of Joan Burstein of Brownie, who established the Rykiel style so firmly in the consciousness of fashionable Londoners. "Sonia makes the sort of clothes I feel happiest in," Joan Burstein says.

Over 20 years Rykiel has taught two generations of women the freedom to be found in wearing sensuous knits. As well as the knitwear, however, she works in every other fabric that moves: crepe, silk or cotton voile. Her checked tweeds and flannel are in fact jersey. Her coats are generally unlined for comfort; her furs are fake. Bags are a passion. She always carries two draped across her body as ornament.

She has also applied her design philosophy to the decoration of restaurants and hotels, cars and crockery and even a range of jans. She describes her approach to design as "very precise". "I have invented an image," she says. "I can apply it to everything in life."

● The Sonia Rykiel collection is at Browns, 23-27 South Molton Street, W1; 6c Sloane Street, SW1; Harrods, Harvey Nichols. The lower priced Rykiel Graphics line in velours, cotton jersey and lambswool is available in stores across the country.

Pointing to the

Paris's top designers have been inspired by a controversial new landmark to create the Pyramid Line for 1989

A pyramid, the latest landmark in the centre of Paris, is also the new outline in fashion. Itoh Ming Pei, the Chinese-American architect responsible for the controversial geometric exercise in glass and steel that has risen inside Napoleon's grandest monument, the Louvre, cannot have imagined that his pyramid would set fashion trends. But, after a week of shows staged in tents in the neighbouring courtyard of the Louvre, it is clear that it has. The lines sketched in my notebook of the styles created by Paris's top designers for 1989 may curve instead of following sharp architectural angles, but they repeatedly echo the outline of the new monument.

Trapeze line tunics and tent dresses at Lacroix and Montana, A-line skirts at Lagerfeld, Kenzo and Rykiel, side-slit tunics and flying fringes at Gaultier, the narrow shouldered jackets worn over wide, wide trousers in every collection, all seem to suggest that Paris designers pursuing the fluid, feminine new silhouettes have unconsciously created the Pyramid Line. Even the gossamer fabrics in vogue echo the airy structure.

"Fashion is becoming fluid again. It is easy and sexy," says Karl Lagerfeld. His signature pleating in crepe and georgette, established in his decade as designer at Chloé, is now seen in his own-name collection where pleated chiffon trousers and long skirts are horizontally stitched to create controlled tiers, and narrower shoulders and floating chiffon

scarves and dresses follow a straightforward A-line.

For his Chanel collection being shown today, Lagerfeld headed for Biarritz and updated Coco Chanel's 1920s matelot style. A cloche hat pulled low on the brow, a Basque beret and Chanel-style espadrilles are worn with droopy cardigans and silk shirts, waists, drop waist pleated dresses and skirts and the essential wide, floppy trousers of the new look.

At Christian Lacroix, fashion's newest silhouette is clearly defined in both his ready-to-wear collection and the more extravagant Luxe line. Colourful trapeze coats over beige jersey wide-legged jumpers opened his ready-to-wear show. Long flared skirts under short narrow jackets, high waisted tank-top dresses, their pockets crusted with embroidery and laden with heavy Byzantine jewellery, worn with nailhead-studded and tasseled sandals and Provencal printed shoes, provided a feast of ideas from this trendsetting designer.

His ready-to-wear collection — with its mix of Picasso and Miro-inspired knitwear, the paisley motif of Provencal prints, embroidered and bobbed crew sweaters and ribbon-encrusted tulle skirts — is as opulent as his Luxe outfits.

The deep side slits in Jean-Paul Gaultier's striped tunics and coats ensure that they fan out into a gentle A-line. His long-standing fetish about corsetry and underwear is indulged this season with



Fine pleated flared tunic top by a master of the fold. ISSEY MIYAKE

lingerie lace and whale bone revealed by the lowest-slung hipster trousers, often supported by multi-strapped braces. Chaps, already seen strapped over leggings and trousers in Gaultier's menswear collection, come laced and in pleated chiffon for women, worn over pin-striped trousers with twinkly lace waistcoats. His colours are the dark browns, reds and golds of Klimt.

Claude Montana, a designer seemingly zipped into the sharp shouldered silhouette of the inverted triangle, has done away with geometric angles. His softened, pyramid line starts at the top with a pleated stole or wide straps crossed over a chiffon sweatshirt. Flared tunics, trench coats

belted at a high waistline, wide trousers and the longest A-line skirts in Paris this season, all flare and flutter into broad sweeps of suede, washed linen, organza and jersey.

For the rest, the sarong skirt is a favourite, wrapped and knotted at the back at Dior, knotted at Miyake. (The latter's triangular robes of fine pleats in bias folds and T-shirts work with handkerchief-point sarongs and bloomers.) The few prints around are chequerboard, splashy abstracts and giant daisy patterns. Gold buttons and nautical detailing are still the chic "notions". A smouldering sensuality is suggested in the diaphanous capes and cowls that are draped around

Paris's new pyramid line.

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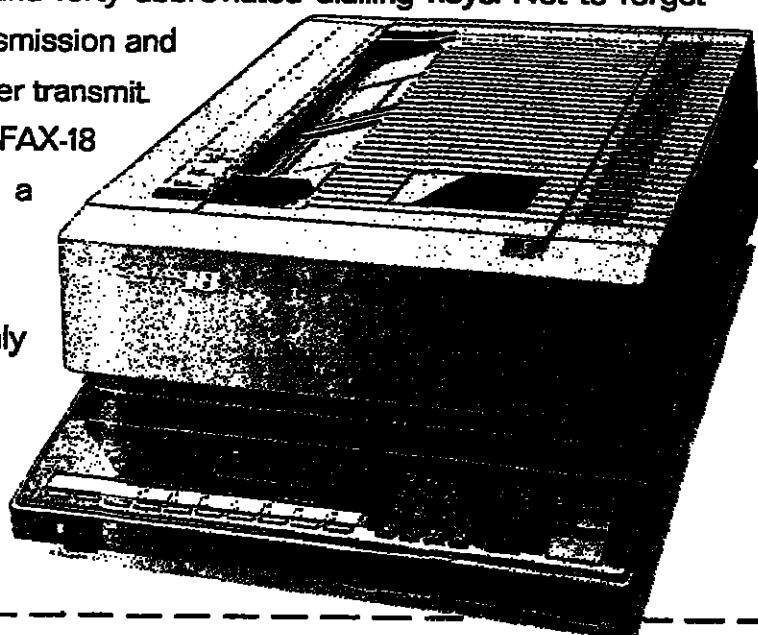
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Hearts are in the right place

Before they fold the fashion show tents away for another season, one last event will be held in the Louvre courtyard tomorrow night to raise two million francs (£200,000) for research into Aids, a disease which has touched the fashion industry. A patchwork quilt of 36 hearts (a broken scarlet heart is France's symbol for the battle against Aids), created by leading fashion designers, will be auctioned at a dinner for 800 presided over by Jack Lang, Minister of Culture, and Claude Evin, Health Minister.

Celebration of designer art



An exhibition of the powerful silhouettes (above) of the Japanese designer Issey Miyake has opened at the Musée des Arts Décoratifs. Mysterious atonal music produced by three human voices put guests at a private view into a serene mood for A Un (A symbolizes birth, Un death). Miyake's description of the relationship between designer and wearer of his folded and pleated clothes. His art is celebrated by Irving Penn in an historic dossier of photographs.

Siren surfaces in a boiler suit

Thierry Mugler can be relied upon to display his penchant for *femmes fatales* in everything he creates. His siren this season is a creature from the deep, her dinosaur scales worked as hip-accentsuating tucks on his favourite iridescent boiler suits, complete with fin-shaped jewellery.

Mugler now devotes half of his year to his other passions, architecture and photography, posing his Amazonian models against such skyscrapers and monuments as the Chrysler Building, the colossal statue of Mao Tse-tung or Moscow's rocket-shaped column to Yuri Gagarin. A book of his photographs is published this week. © Thierry Mugler, Photographier, Editions du Regard (350 francs).

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Far left: Loose flowing
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printed flared skirt
CHRISTIAN LACROIX
ready-to-wear

Left: Checkerboard and
puzzle printed trapeze line
ankle-length dress
KARL LAGERFELD

Below: A-line gaberdine
shirt over wide trousers
CLAUDE MONTANA

Right: Trapeze jacket in
Andy Warhol cloque
flower print over
straight skirt
CHRISTIAN LACROIX Luxe

Far right: Layered lace
edged satin "chaps"
adding volume to the slim
shouldered silhouette
JEAN PAUL GAULTIER

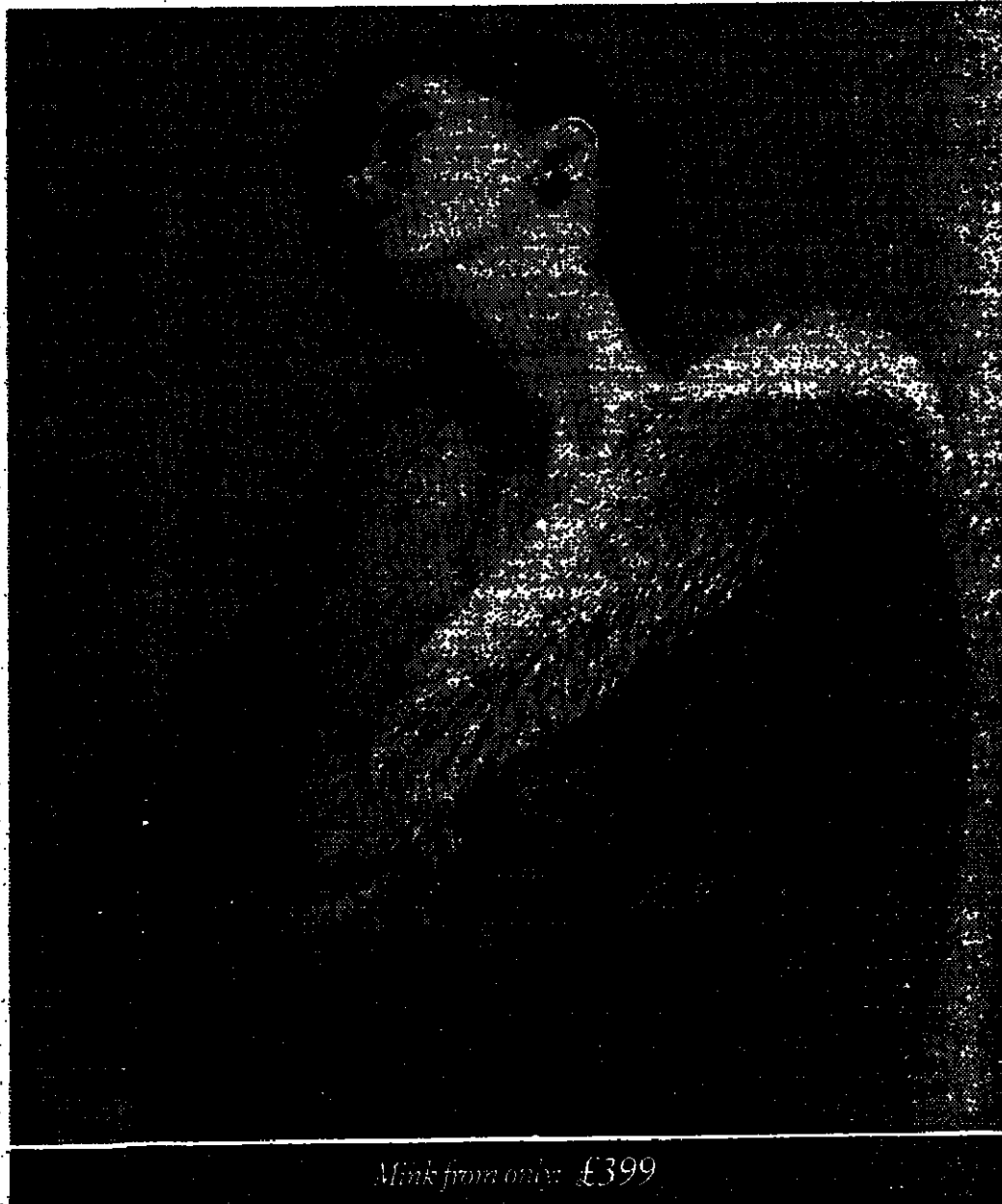
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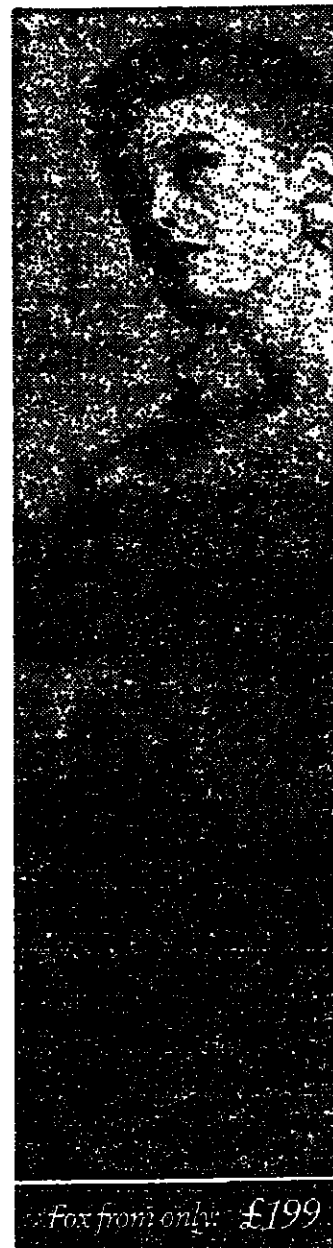
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TIMES DIARY

DAVID WALKER

The new men who have made it in Mrs Thatcher's Britain are not all thriving private sector entrepreneurs. Some are thriving public sector entrepreneurs. Take, for example, the directors of the polytechnics who at the stroke of midnight on March 31 will be transformed from dreary county and borough council appointees into dynamic corporate chiefs.

It's one of the oddities of the 1980s that the polys, mainly the treasured creation of that archetypal social democrat, Tony Crosland, should have become the darlings of Conservative education ministers who have given the poly directors more extensive managerial powers than anyone else in higher education. Of course, there is supposed to be an apparatus of business-minded governors to whom the directors will be answerable, but when a director says "We have chosen the governors very carefully... to make sure they are sympathetic to what we want to do", you are left with legitimate doubts about what kind of accountability there will actually be.

One of the relics of local authority control is that the directors are a mixed bunch. A government which waxes anxious about academic standards has entrusted the leadership of these academic institutions to men whose calibre is, to put it kindly, variable. If there is to be a clash between standards and income generation, the poly directors are all firmly on the side of survival.

Some, like former MPs Christopher Price and Gerry Fowles (Leeds and New East London respectively), are straight Labour, which at least means they know where the bodies are hidden when it comes to negotiating with the left-led poly lecturers' union. Some are ex-Department of Education and Science, like Clive Booth at Oxford and Pauline Perry at South Bank. Some are well plugged into the Tory party, like Kenneth Green at Manchester, a pal of Brian Griffiths of the No 10 policy unit. Some, like Professor Neil Buxton at Hatfield, emphasise their own credentials (polys are free to call whomever they like a poly, leading to a great title boom).

The Government, giving no plausible reason, has so far rejected poly demands that they be allowed to call themselves universities. But the old "binary" division cannot last much longer. Ray Rickett, the pugnacious director of Middlesex (with a bigger philosophy department than all but one university), now says Croslandism, and all the stuff about polys having a different mission, was a mere accident.

There's nothing, meanwhile, like an academic tiff for seeing the knives flash. In one corner Lord (Henry) Chilver, Fellow of the Royal Society, principal of go-getting Cranfield Institute of Technology, part-time businessman and chairman-designate of the Universities Funding Council. In the other Sir Peter Swinnerton-Dyer, also an FRS, mathematician extraordinaire and chief executive-designate of the Universities Funding Council. Death to the Robbins principle, said Chilver last week. (Lord Robbins, reporting to Harold Macmillan, held that all middle-class children with two A levels should get a place in a university or college). Robbins is an English sixth-former's birthright and will live for ever (at least until Kenneth Baker tells me different). Swinnerton-Dyer responded. For all his physical bulk, Swinnerton-Dyer is quick on his feet and knows which steps to pull. Chilver, an ideologue among politicians, will shortly back off.

Just criticism of the Prime Minister is that she never seems to know when she has won. When, that is, the institution at which she flung her handbag actually turns round, does what she suggests.



gested and emerges from the process if not refreshed then at least eager to take on new challenges. A good example is the British Council. The very fact that it is Collins, a commercial publisher, who put out a recent lecture by Richard Francis, the director-general (1992 and All That - The Currency of English) speaks volumes about the way the Council now thinks in market terms. The content of the lecture itself reinforces the impression that, unlike the Goethe Institute or the Institut Français, the British Council has worked out a new balance between public money and private enterprise and is poised to leap on both the cultural and the commercial opportunities of the single European market.

A lady whose ear is being earnestly sought this week is Melinda Libby, special adviser to John Moore. He is a minister, it increasingly seems, who lost an empire but has not yet found anything approaching a coherent role. What he needs, they are saying in think tanks and back rooms at the Carlton, are some ideas. Making speeches, as he did the other day, about universal benefits being a decorative overlay is all very well. But where is the sense that one bit of the welfare system always coincides with another and that freezing this (child benefit) or adding to that (family credit) needs to be done within a general framework of welfare reform? Moore's problem is that the great reforms were supposed to be accomplished in the package he himself inaugurated in April. Pamphlets and reform schemes are winging their way to him at this very moment.

The EEC competition commissioner, Peter Sutherland, writing on this page on Saturday, said that the Community is already a federal structure in embryo. The only question is how fast we progress towards the goal. Egon Klopsch, the leader of the federalist-minded European People's Party, with 115 out of 518 seats in the European Parliament, has said that it may be necessary for the 11 other member states to get together without Britain. Siegfert Alber, vice-president of the European Parliament, has called for a European Parliament sovereign in its responsibility to European citizens with a European government elected and controlled by the Parliament.

However sceptical many may be about the chances of the federalists here and elsewhere in the EEC securing their goal, it would be naive and imprudent to ignore what is happening. The Prime Minister has done a great and historic service both to Britain and to the EEC by bringing this kind of European unity "by stealth" into the full glare of publicity.

The great impact of European legislation and European politics has been left obscured on the margins of British political debate in Parliament for far too

long. Those of us committed to the effective working of the Community, but who reject federalism, have to take a stand. What we would like to know is: who would run a federal Europe, how and for what purpose?

Where Peter Sutherland and others are wrong is to assume that the economic integration we have backed by agreeing to the Treaty of Rome and the Single European Act necessarily implies political union of the federalist kind. We have agreed to no such thing. As the Duke of Wellington said of Napoleon's ambitions in Spain, "So far and no further".

It is disturbing too that there are in this country longstanding, influential advocates of a federal-based Europe who have brushed aside the suggestion that this is the direction in which things have been manipulated and moved. With the notable exception of Edward Heath they have been conspicuous by their

William Cash warns against loss of sovereignty by stealth

'No' to the Euro plotters

recent silence. The Prime Minister is certainly not "tilting at windmills" and Frère Jacques Delors is not engaging in "rhetorical flourishes". Battle, hopefully a democratic and constructive battle of ideas for the future and for the benefit of the European Community, is now emphatically joined.

There is continuing concern about the manner of legislation and the shape of legislation which emerges from Europe. Much of it is excellent and Peter Sutherland is in the forefront of encouraging and enforcing greater competition, but it would be wrong to ignore the difficulties inherent in the attempt to "socialize" Europe through legislation, such as the Company Law Statute.

Even in the economic sphere there are alleged attempts to undermine British industries by imposing unnecessary, costly and unacceptable but legally binding technical standards.

We need a full survey of the membership, powers and composition of committees with authority over such standards. (Yesterday I put down a question in Parliament for such information.) These can themselves be essentially, if not obviously, anti-competitive; not because they impose unfair standards but because they may rig the marketplace and be a reflection either of undue influence within the Commission by individual national or other interests (often, it is alleged, West German).

The irony is that the real "nationalists" are those who seek to impose their own national standards, through the doubtful use of majority voting and EEC legislation, on everyone else. In a market of such size the advantages so secured and wrapped up in tedious reams of legal paperwork are remarkable. A cynic might argue that those who stand by and allow such

things to happen have only themselves to blame. But often justifiable insistence on specific domestic standards is caricatured as protectionism or as an ineffective response to Japan, the United States and the Asian challenge. Yet there is nothing "little Englander" in, for example, declining to accept Continental water standards. We are an island with quite different geographical and geological characteristics. Such a response is only practical.

The EEC in principle has just about the right framework now. It will develop and must be reformed. The advantages it offers will help us to compete successfully with other continental giants.

But political union on the same scale is unnecessary and could provoke unwelcome hostility. Diversity within the framework of the Community and in Nato is a better guarantor of peace and security. It is those

who demand European government who are damaging the chance of success.

It is not, contrary to the point made by Peter Sutherland and by Edward Heath at the Conservative party conference, the size or number of persons employed by the Commission that is relevant, but the power (which is the real sovereignty) they have, the use of it, and especially the tendency to enlarge it.

Can it be right for the internal handbook of the European Commission to tell unelected and unaccountable senior Eurocrats that, in order to strengthen their authority and power, they should seek to divide and rule member states, seek additional power to negotiate unilaterally with other nations and take over more of the running of EEC matters at the expense of national ministers? We in the United Kingdom and in Parliament must throw our weight behind the Prime Minister in this historic debate.

In a paraphrase of Dunning's 1780 Common Law motion: "The influence of the Commission has increased, is increasing and ought to be diminished."

The author, Conservative MP for Stafford, is a member of the Select Committee on European Legislation.

Alan Ryan

Citizens of all persuasions

In the tenth year of Mrs Thatcher's revolution, her party's grasp on power seems unshakable, but she has not achieved the intellectual breakthrough she has aimed at. This is not surprising: the relationship between capitalism, economics and democratic politics is paradoxical and unresolved. In principle, the socialist critics are right - markets count money, elections count people; markets run on self-interest while, in aspiration, democratic politics runs on principle and conviction. The market elevates the self-centred consumer, democracy looks to the good citizen.

In practice, the Conservatives seem to be right, and democracy and capitalism cannot do without each other. There are many undemocratic capitalist societies but, with the partial exception of India, there are no uncivilized democracies. Countries which have competitive elections, multiple political parties, an impartial judiciary and a decent record on human rights also have substantially capitalist economies. If the citizens of the Soviet bloc were allowed a free vote on their preferred economic system their choice would be private ownership and free enterprise.

All the same, the clash of principle persists, and intellectually sensitive politicians feel it. Left, right and centre put it differently, but the thought is much the same: citizenship is more than having a decent job and a reasonable standard of living; freedom is more than being able to work for anyone who will have you, and more than being able to buy whatever happens to be in the shops.

Prosperity is fine, but a society can be rich and miserable, as many American cities demonstrate. Prosperity can be distributed so unevenly that outsiders recoil and insiders flinch, as commuters do as they step over the homeless sheltering in New York's Penn Station. And even the well-paid can be powerless in their jobs, frightened by the lack of influence on how their firms are run. We may be rich, but lack the sense of commitment and

community that real citizens feel in smaller, poorer and rougher societies than our own.

The feeling that prosperity can erode the sense of community has a long history. It was expressed by Pericles when he told the Athenians that a man who merely "minds his own business" was a bad citizen; it was the common coin of English political debate in the 18th century when conservatives complained that the credit revolution was creating a society of "easy come, easy go" where nobody felt a stable attachment to place or to principle.

Rousseau complained that luxury-loving Frenchmen were the slaves of both their monarchs and their passions, and vastly inferior to the tough, public-spirited citizens of ancient Rome and Sparta. Not for nothing does Tony Benn keep appealing to a tradition that goes back to the republicans who fought alongside Cromwell; austere democrats have always felt a puritan dislike for prosperity unaccompanied by virtue and public spirit. The good citizen has always been a reproach to the happy consumer.

Conversely, enthusiasts for the modern world agreed by the reign of good Queen Anne that the public-spirited values of ancient citizenship had been eroded, but denied that a bad bargain had been struck. Mandeville outrageously, and Hume more soberly, reminded the nostalgic that they did not really want to live in sinking huts and dress in sackcloth - let alone eat the gruel the Spartans fed on. Capitalism did not just mean prosperity, either; it meant liberty, the rule of law, social mobility and governments that usually behaved sensibly because credit and the currency suffered if they did not.

The French Revolution was the great showdown between the enthusiasts for the classical citizen and the defenders of bourgeois comfort and economic growth. And in that light, there is no doubt who won. Whatever else Robespierre did, he proved that ancient Rome would not take



root in modern Paris - and all the paintings of David made no difference to that obstinate fact.

But in politics, good arguments never die; they change their costume and reappear in the next act. The current discussion of citizenship is part of the history of the welfare state. The "new liberals" at the end of the 19th century united in announcing that people who were insecurely employed, underpaid, ill-fed, ill-housed, unhealthy and illiterate were no better than slaves; they might have the vote, and they might be reasonably secure against the violence and physical oppression of the powerful, but socially they were still disfranchised. What was wanted was not just the vote, but social and economic citizenship.

This was not a defence of the "nanny state". The new liberals had a high regard for individual

ity and private initiative, and no liking for the dragoned society that Bismarck was building in Prussia. They wanted an "unserviceable" state which took on only those welfare functions which would liberate the citizenry into citizenship. Lord Beveridge was a fine example of the breed, imbued with what Mrs Thatcher might hail as Victorian values, particularly a strong sense of social responsibility and a tremendous emphasis on the relationship between freedom, knowledge and self-control.

T.H. Marshall's classic account of all this in *Citizenship and Social Class* is 40 years old, and not much read any more, but it still has much to teach anyone who thinks that the SLD might rebuild the political centre around the ideals of citizenship, or that the Labour and Conservative parties could preach a more attractive, less abrasive

version of their creeds if they thought about citizenship rather than cloth-cap Utopia and city-slicker paradise.

The values of citizenship and community are attractive both sides of the Atlantic. Both George Bush and Michael Dukakis emphasize the values of citizenship and community. The American public's distaste for "liberalism" reflects the way that old-fashioned individualism is not what they are after, and that community-building and citizenship matter more.

On the left, some "communitarians" attack liberalism outright in the name of classical values, others try to push the liberals towards something more nearly socialist. On the right it is small-town communitarianism and the old-fashioned citizen patriot that are celebrated. But the tone in American debates is

very like the tone of the British ones, where on the left we have Raymond Plant's contributions to the Fabian Society's rethinking of socialist philosophy and, on the right, Roger Scruton's reminders of the communal emphasis of traditional conservatism.

Marshall's rather optimistic picture suggested that Britain had moved steadily through three stages: "civil" citizenship meant the equal application of the law, and was achieved by 1832, at any rate in principle; "political" citizenship meant the achievement of universal suffrage and took from 1832 to 1928; "social" citizenship was an open-ended sort of process, involving at least the extension of education, health care, legal services and minimum wage legislation to all. It was not quite clear where it might end.

In that open-endedness lies the rub. "Citizenship", like the ideal of "community", is widely attractive just because it disguises hard choices. Everyone would like to be a citizen, nobody wants to be isolated and alienated. But beyond the platitudes, agreement vanishes.

Americans vote for community and move home every 4.9 years. Fabians preach citizenship but don't fancy a Swiss regime of compulsory military service and annual refresher into middle age. Mrs Thatcher's good citizen wants the rule of law and the vote, but wouldn't count Marshall's "social" citizenship as a form of citizenship at all. The tougher sort of liberal doesn't really want the coexistence of the community values that the SLD has been preaching, and the public at large was unenthusiastic about Arthur Scargill's campaign for mining communities and the NUM's version of industrial democracy.

Or, to put it differently, if left, right and centre start talking about citizenship, community and allegiance, it will be left, right and centre versions of those good things that they will offer.

Alan Ryan is author of *Bertrand Russell: A Political Life*.

Commentary • TIM CONGDON

Boxed in by the boom

Most British companies nowadays are involved in two distinct activities. The first is creating a product or service and selling it to their customers. The second is amateur property speculation.

This may seem a startling remark, but a little reflection shows how important property is to corporate success in modern Britain. A lively market in commercial and industrial property gives all companies the option to own their premises instead of renting, while a highly competitive banking system enables them to finance property acquisition by borrowing rather than from the owners' equity. Land and buildings are often worth much more than stock, machinery and goodwill. Decisions about property and its financing can therefore have a greater influence on profitability than decisions about technology and marketing.

Managements with a naive focus on their own business can be bamboozled by managements with a greater awareness of property opportunities. A recent illustration is British Aerospace's coup in obtaining large chunks of undervalued land with its purchases of Royal Ordnance and the Rover Group. But there are countless earlier examples. In the 1960s and early 1970s the City pages were full of stories about easy fortunes made from asset-stripping.

Property matters less to big business than to small, new businesses. Typically, a small company starts up with a loan from a local bank manager secured against either the

premises or the businessman's own house. The interest on the loan is usually a high proportion of costs and may sometimes be the largest single expense. In extreme but not uncommon cases the viability of the business depends only marginally on the ability to make and sell something. Far more crucial is the relationship between interest rates and the rate of increase in property prices, including house price inflation.

The argument should not be pressed too far. It is not valid at all times and in all places. If Britain had been better governed over the last forty years it would not be of much relevance here. The pivotal role of property management in contemporary business success is not inevitable, but the result of inflation, volatile interest rates and erratic financial policies.

Inflation is a nuisance because it is accompanied by high nominal interest rates, needed to compensate savers for the fall in the value of money. High interest rates bite into cash flow and can cripple new businesses, which nearly always have an initial period of liquidity strain. True enough, the interest charges are offset by the increase in the value of any land and buildings which the business owns. Perhaps, in an ideal world, it ought not to be necessary to pay interest in full. Since both the nominal interest rate and the appreciation of property values reflect general inflation, the inflation component in both cancel out and can be ignored.

But in the rough-and-tumble of everyday business life banks

are not so understanding. They still adhere to the primitive belief that customers ought to repay loans, including accumulated interest. Their difficulty, and also the borrower's, is to know how to assess the true cost of a loan. Is it best measured by the excess of interest rates over the increase in the retail price index, or over the increase in property prices generally, or over the increase in the value of the specific loan and buildings which represent collateral? Everyone agrees that inflation reduces the real burden of any given level of nominal interest rates. But how much?

These uncertainties help to explain why interest rate volatility is such a curse. Over the last 11 years clearing bank base rates have varied between 5 per cent and 17 per cent. No one knows, with any confidence, whether interest rates twelve months from now will be 3 per cent more or less than they are today.

Since the rate of property price appreciation is high when interest rates are low, and vice versa, it is critical to the small businessman when he establishes his company. An investor in, say, a restaurant or hotel at a favourable point in the property cycle (for example, 1970 or 1981) is far more likely to make money than someone who instead chose an unlucky moment (1973 or 1979).

Management skill benefits society. If industry makes more high-quality products and markets them successfully, national output increases. By contrast, astuteness in predicting interest rates adds little or nothing to

economic welfare. It is, in economists' jargon, a zero-sum game. It may yield positive returns to certain individuals (those who invested in 1970 or 1981), but these must be offset by negative returns to others (those who invested in 1973 or 1979).

Because of macroeconomic turbulence, a fixation with the property market and interest rate gyrations has become part of the British way of life. A return to price stability and an associated move in interest rates to lower and more settled levels are needed if genuine entrepreneurship is to replace small-time property speculation. It is here that we see the connection between three well-known Thatcherite themes: the case for a sound currency, the virtues of effort and thrift, and the enthusiasm for small business.

It is here also that we see just how damaging the Lawson boom has been to the Conservatives' long-term economic programme. The wild increase in London office prices in 1986 and 1987, the 40 per cent surge in house prices nationally over the last 18 months and the recent 4.5 per cent jump in interest rates will all reinforce the widely-held belief that correct timing in the property market is essential to business success.

The eradication of the boom-bust mentality was central to the present government's original agenda. But the excesses of the last three years have obliged businessmen once again to worry more about the stop-go cycle and less about the really important tasks of managing, producing and selling.

OCT 25 ON THIS DAY 1881

Il Duca d'Alba was put aside roughly half composed in the 1830s. It was completed by Matteo Salvi, one of the composer's former pupils, and was given its first performance at the Teatro Apollo, Rome, in 1882.

THE DISCOVERY OF AN OPERA BY DONIZETTI

The lively interest aroused in the musical world of Italy by the reported discovery of an autograph posthumous opera by her favourite Donizetti entitled the *Duca d'Alba* has been still further increased by the publication in the *Perseus* of the report of the Commission named by the Accademia Council of the Milan Conservatoire, fully confirming the authenticity of the MS which the publisher Francesco Lucrezi had purchased on the assurance that it was the work of the great maestro. The report states that the Commission, having made a careful examination of the opera and having compared it with many autographs of Donizetti's of various dates, such as the original MS of the *Torquato Tasso*, a number of pieces added by the maestro to *Fausta*, and among others to a closely covered page of music for the violin written at Vienna in 1842 in the presence of Signor Razzini, the president of the Academy and a member of the Commission, declare the work to be perfectly authentic and written throughout by Donizetti's own hand. The French libretto by Scribe is the same upon which the illustrious maestro composed the music and bears several marks and annotations of musical

thought; among others, bars drawn by the pen on the margin with notes for the chorus *Rive Chérie* in Act IV. The libretto consists of four acts, altogether 24 scenes. The preface is wanting; but in the opening chorus the composer indicates the idea to be developed for it; and the tone and point for the rising of the curtain. The first, second, and third scenes of the first act are complete as to singing and instrumentation, except the dance music in the first scene, of which there is no trace. In the fourth scene there is wanting only a fragment of instrumentation to the words, "O fille du martyre."

[After analysing the state of Acts I, II, and III the report concludes...] In the fourth act the music in the first scene of the first scene - that is, the romantic and romance of Henry, the tenor. In the second scene the vocal portion is complete of the duet between Hilarie and Henry; instrumentation imperfect. Of the third and last scene there merely exists the musical idea on the margin of the libretto of the chorus *O rive Chérie*.

An air of the *Duca, Je pars*, is entire. The melody accompanying Henry's words in the dying scene is clearly traced. The closing air of the heroines (*Duca d'Alba*), with the closing choruses of the opera, are wanting. The pieces of music entirely finished, or which can easily be finished following the indications of the master, are 18 in number, and consist of three arias and three choruses, four duets, two tercets, three complete pieces, and three dramatic scenes. The fourth act only is wanting in two important pieces. But, in spite of this, the great line traced by the master is so clear that the Commissioners are persuaded the *Duca d'Alba* can be entrusted to safe and expert hands to be presented to the public as the indubitable work of Donizetti.



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MARSHALL MARK II

Chancellor Kohl yesterday became the second of three West European leaders to pay court to Mr Gorbachov in Moscow this autumn. Like the Italian Prime Minister before him and, no doubt, President Mitterrand next month, Herr Kohl has with him a large delegation of businessmen keen to tap a potentially rich market at a politically advantageous moment.

Mr Gorbachov can be well pleased. His "new thinking" has encouraged confidence in the Soviet Union as a future trading partner. The countries and companies of Western Europe are competing to offer the Kremlin the most attractive deal. The visiting politicians have in their retinue not only the businessmen to conclude agreements, but the bankers to finance them.

Amid this flurry of commercial activity, the West's desire to co-ordinate its efforts, lessen the competitive element and ensure the most favourable conditions for co-operation with Moscow is understandable. Recently, this desire has been articulated, by politicians from East and West, as a Marshall Plan Mark II.

The outlines, like the priorities, of this new plan are as yet imprecise. Some see it as a rescue package for the debilitated economies of Eastern Europe; others as a fund to assist the modernization of the Soviet Union and, thus, help Mr Gorbachov stay in power. Whatever shape it eventually assumes, the idea of such a plan — however seductive — is misguided.

The circumstances in which the original Marshall Plan was applied to Western Europe are quite different from those in which the countries of Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union stand today. Marshall aid was given to restore economies destroyed by war and ensure democracy. It was accepted on those terms. The countries of Eastern Europe, too, were offered Marshall aid. It was refused on their behalf.

Now, 40 years later, the economies of the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe are again in extreme difficulty. But the reason is no longer war — however frequently Moscow cites that as a factor — but four decades of socialism,

variously practised. If these economies are to be revived with Western help, there must be evidence of a will to change principles as well as practice. Mr Gorbachov's promise of "more socialism", not less, is not encouraging.

Signor De Mita has argued that this problem could be surmounted by linking the provision of assistance to progress in human rights and the extension of economic reforms. Could not Western assistance, it is asked, be monitored to ensure that funds are directed exclusively to raising living standards, not diverted to military purposes?

Experience of the *détente* years has taught that diversion is impossible to prove. Moreover, Western assistance, far from accelerating change, can help to support the status quo.

For those who cite Western self-interest as a reason for supporting a Marshall Plan, the past also has a lesson. The provision of favourable trading terms can create as many problems as it solves. Romania, Poland and Hungary are still suffering the consequences of repaying *détente* loans their economies could not support. The Romanian leadership passed the suffering on to the people; elsewhere, the leaders fell.

The Soviet Union is often regarded as different. It has coupled its reputation as a conscientious payer with a reluctance to seek credit. Optimistic assessments of its natural wealth and stated plans for reform must, however, be set against the difficulty of extracting its mineral resources, the little progress made towards reform so far, and the unreliability of the statistical information it provides.

Good will towards Mr Gorbachov, born of the fear that he is vulnerable, must never override sound political and commercial judgement. His problems cannot be solved by the richer West. Mr Gorbachov, and the leaders of Eastern Europe, must ask themselves why the West is richer. It is not just thanks to the funds provided by the Marshall Plan, but to the economic and political conditions that were attached.

FADING BENEFITS

Reports of this year's public expenditure survey have, in one respect at least, been confusing. On the one hand it is said that the Social Services Secretary, Mr John Moore, has "lost out" to the Treasury in a bid to return to uprating child benefit in line with inflation after this year's freeze. On the other there are reports that a standstill in child benefit is all part of a long-term package of Mr Moore's own devising aimed towards reducing dependency on the State by targeting benefits more carefully.

Not long after being appointed to his previous job of Secretary of State for Health and Social Services, Mr Moore set out his views on the reform of social security in a speech which was widely reported at the time. His theme was that dependency on state benefits for those with other incomes was corrupting and needed to be reduced. In last year's public spending round the decision was made to freeze child benefit at its present cash level and to compensate by better directing resources where they were needed.

There is a sensible principle here which should command a good deal of support. Recipients of child benefit among the higher income groups receive £7.25 a week for each child from the State — money which they do not need. But the Government has so far been remarkably unsuccessful at demonstrating the force of its case.

Mr Moore had an uncomfortable time in the House of Commons during the spring when the Fowler reforms, which also sought to target state money in the direction of the needy, were introduced. Now ministers have succeeded in raising a barrage of flak against the possibility of child benefit being frozen for the second year running.

Partly this is a result of the unadroit commitment in the election manifesto to go on paying child benefit "as now, to the woman". Exactly what "as now" means is a nice question. Take away the comma and it might mean simply that where paid, the benefit should go to the woman. The effect of the commitment, however, has been to take off the

agenda any notion of means-testing or taxing child benefit. That left the Government with the route of freezing its cash value, allowing it, as it were, to wither on the vine.

A policy of virtue by stealth is seldom satisfactory in adversarial politics and it is unlikely to be so here. There are strong arguments in favour of targeting benefits more narrowly, but there are also arguments against. The most telling argument against is that the more you target benefits only to those in need the more difficult it is for the recipients to climb out of benefit dependency.

It is an inevitable consequence of switching from universal benefits to targeted benefits that the unemployment trap is either deepened or widened, or both. By reducing dependency in the population at large, dependency among benefit recipients is increased because the incentive to earn more is reduced by the high effective marginal rate of tax as benefits are withdrawn.

It is also argued that universal benefits are more widely taken up than means-tested ones and, therefore, more effective in relieving poverty. There is concern at running down the only substantial benefit which is paid direct to women.

It is worth enumerating these arguments, not because they prove that child benefit should be retained in its present form but because they show the need for the Government to explain and defend what it is doing rather more effectively than can be done in the context of leaks of events in the Chief Secretary's room at the Treasury. There is a strong case for another look at the structure of social security, as Mr Moore implied in his speech last year.

The Fowler review which began with high hopes brought forth a mouse. The key question is: what is the money which would otherwise have gone on uprating child benefit to be spent on? The Government needs to present this positively, either in the autumn statement, or in the context of a new review of social security if it is to convince people that child benefit should be allowed to fade away.

BISHOP'S LAW

A few women priests are resident in this country. From time to time others make visits. As priests, they wish to administer the Sacrament of Holy Communion from time to time, in England as they do at home.

At present, however, no English bishop has authority to licence them to officiate as priests of the Church of England in his diocese. He may recognize the validity of their Holy Orders in the diocese, and accept them on the staff of his diocese on that basis. But that is all.

A bishop who learns that an Anglican woman priest, temporarily or permanently living in his diocese, has celebrated the Service of Holy Communion without his authorization, has the option of falling back on a restatement of his position in such terms, and considering nothing further to be called for. Or, like the Bishop of London, Dr Graham Leonard, who wants to stop a small group of feminist Christians from using the ecumenical chapel at Queen Mary's College, University of London, for such services, he may favour a more zealous approach.

The choice between these alternatives is not going to go away. The Bishop of Oxford, Dr Richard Harries, has, for example, a little local difficulty of the same sort. A priest whom he has authorized to exercise her diaconal ministry has also conducted private services of Holy Communion.

The church authorities are in general ill-advised to talk of such incidents as "unlawful" or "illegal", as if there were malice in them and as if that malice lay particularly in law-breaking. If there is such a law, it is a very unclear one. Unless she deliberately puts herself under the authority of the local

Ordinary, an American Anglican woman priest in England is not answerable to the Church of England or its laws, any more than a Methodist minister or Roman Catholic priest would be.

What she does in private, and "private" in this context applies to almost everything except a building dedicated to public worship under the Church of England's exclusive jurisdiction, is no concern of the bishop. The proper parallel is to treat her as a minister of another denomination with whom the Church of England has the friendliest of relations, and to afford her the courtesy, and the room for pastoral and sacramental manoeuvre, to which that status entitles her.

The Church of England, out of ecumenical good will, has allowed Roman Catholic congregations to use Anglican parish churches without much regard to the strict letter of church law. Out of respect for the Anglican spirit of comprehensiveness, it has turned a blind eye to countless unauthorized — and strictly illegal — adaptations of the Anglican rite, according to the tastes of local incumbents and their congregations. Some of those who disapprove most strongly of any toleration of unofficial priestly activity by women priests, have enjoyed just such toleration themselves in their "illegal" use of the Roman missal.

The Bishop of London should make his position publicly clear, and leave it at that. Any impression of hounding or persecution would deliver sympathy to the side of his opponents. But there are more important considerations than this tactical one. The Eucharist is the Church of England's most holy mystery. It should not be allowed to become an ecclesiastical football.

Fair amends for terror victims

From Lord Donoughue
Sir, Your feature mentioning the Abbeystead explosion ("After the tragedy, the waiting", October 10) and the subsequent comments from the President of the Institute of Civil Engineers (letter, October 20) justifiably criticise the compensation procedures for disaster victims in this country.

Perhaps the worse scandal concerns those civilian innocents who suffer from criminal or terrorist disasters, such as the IRA bombing of the Grand Hotel in Brighton. Their plight is usually highly publicised in the media at the time, but disgracefully neglected by the authorities afterwards.

Compensation through the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board, set according to rigid statutory formula, is slow and unsatisfyingly paltry. A victim of the 1984 Brighton atrocity, badly injured himself, with her husband killed and leaving two teenage children to support, was finally, after three years' delay, awarded a sum little more than my lawyer charges for a few corporate consultations. In other circumstances the courts, or an insurance company, might have awarded a similar amount for an ankle injury from a crooked pavement.

This obscene IRA crime was

perpetrated because her Majesty's Government was assembling in Brighton for the Conservative Party conference. So far the Government has done very little, and the Conservative Party has done nothing at all, for several of those who suffered in its cause. Parties, of whatever political persuasion, may feel that they have no responsibility in such matters, but it is sad that victims cannot turn to a satisfactory and speedy compensation fund.

Nothing can replace, or compensate emotionally, for the loss of a father, husband, mother, wife, or child. But that surely does not mean it is excusable for our modern uncaring society to neglect the material consequences of their sufferings.

The Prime Minister, whose own courage at Brighton was exemplary, stated at this month's party conference that the fact that the Conservative Party was assembling again at the Grand Hotel was a demonstration that the IRA have not won. Hopefully so. But certainly the Brighton bereaved have lost.

Yours,
DONOUGHUE,
1 Sloane Square, SW1,
October 24.

US elections

From Mrs Sally McNulty

Sir, William Curran's remarks (October 20) are humbling. On three occasions in London Republicans have made the debating point that their candidate is running against the foreign policy of the Jimmy Carter years; now they trot out Zbigniew Brzezinski, one of the architects of Carter's foreign policy, as a Democratic deserter. This is a bit like Old Father William standing on his head once he's discovered he has no brain.

On economic and fiscal policy alike, how does Mr Curran know what Michael Dukakis would or would not veto as president? Is he privy to information the rest of us don't have?

On the Bill to terminate the overseas tax exclusion, Senator

Proxmire has been trying to get this one passed for years and has never succeeded. The Senate Finance Committee, chaired by Senator Lloyd Bentsen, refused to hold hearings on Proxmire's Bill. This session of Congress ended October 21, Proxmire retires at the end of this year. The Bill has no chance of passing; it is automatically finished.

Democrats overseas have worked for years for fair tax treatment, better citizenship laws, social security and medicare benefits for Americans abroad. Michael Dukakis has pledged his support to us on these issues.

Once again our opponents are busy spreading disinformation. Yours faithfully,
SALLY MCNULTY (Chairman, Democrats Abroad (UK)),
50 Springfield Road, NW8,
October 24.

Buying British

From Mr Michael Garland
Sir, Noboddy could disagree with Professor Sinclair's argument (October 14) that we need to design, make, and market better products than our competitors. In fact we are doing so in many, many areas of British industry.

But increasingly (with notable exceptions) our successes feature in the high added-value areas of scientific, engineering, and information technology, rather than in the more visible area of consumer durables.

Professor Sinclair's exhortation to better industrial education is another well-founded but incomplete answer to a fundamental problem.

Duped but undaunted

From Mr D. G. P. Chatfield
Sir, The cuckoo/dunnock plot thickens (Lord Campbell's letter, October 18). There is, apparently, a prevailing view that dunnocks "cannot tell the difference between a bucket and a barn door" (and why should they?) in my experience they seldom use either and that, therefore, say those who hold this view, it is hardly necessary for the cuckoo to make any attempt to disguise the egg which it places in the dunnock's nest.

Tax reform

From Mr A. M. Podhalicz
Sir, There is one non-inflationary tax reform which would meet the Chancellor's oft-repeated objective of reducing further direct taxation and would be beneficial to the balance of payments.

If, in preference to the changes in the standard and higher rates of income tax, a new tax allowance in respect of at least the first £1,000 of investment income was introduced (combined with a system of refunds where the income is at present paid net), saving would be encouraged and the current high rates of consumption reduced.

Yours faithfully,
A. M. PODHALICZ,
17 Honeyhill,
Wootton Bassett,
Swindon, Wiltshire,
October 15.

Help for sport

From the Chairman of the Sports Aid Foundation
Sir, A letter which you published on October 19 stated incorrectly that the "Sports Aid Foundation" was to receive charitable funds raised by Sport Aid '88.

I wish to make it plain that the Sports Aid Foundation is not part of Sport Aid nor of Sport Aid '88. We are a separate organisation, with separate funding and with distinct aims. We raise money for sports people, not from them.

Yours etc.,
EDDIE KULUKUNDIS,
Chairman,
Sports Aid Foundation Ltd,
18 Upper Woburn Place, WC1,
October 20.

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (01)782 5046.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Child benefit's place in society

From Lady Jeger

Sir, Your interesting article (October 19) on child benefit prompts a few thoughts. Your "well-heeled" mothers need feel no more guilt about accepting child benefit than their husbands do about enjoying their tax reductions. Both come out of the public purse.

Before the Child Benefit Act of 1975 there were income-tax reliefs in respect of children. In 1975 these were: £305 for each child over 16 in full-time education, articulated or apprenticed; £275 for children aged 11 to 16; and £240 for each child under 11.

I do not recollect any well-off parents refusing what was, in fact, a Treasury grant on the ground that they did not need it. For parents on incomes below the tax-paying level the Family Allowances Act of 1945 (which owed much to the campaigning of Eleanor Rathbone) provided five shillings a week for the second and subsequent child — nothing for the first.

These disparities were the genesis of the Child Benefit Act of 1975 which, with all-party agreement, abolished both forms of child support in favour of a new universal payment to all mothers. It was a statement of the obvious fact that all families with children face higher expenses than people without children.

Child allowances should never have left the Treasury. They do not belong in the framework of social security benefits. They do not have to do with poverty. They are to do with everybody's children. Sometimes the Government seems to accept this differential by isolating child benefit from other social-security payments with built-in uprating.

The Chancellor has gained by

the abolition of tax allowances for children and has passed the whole bill for child support to the social security budget, where it does not properly belong.

Some of the people in Lee Rodwell's article seemed to feel that it would be fair to take child benefit from better-off people and "target" on poorer families. This seems to suggest that only people with children should help other people with children and that people with no children should not share in the process.

And how are the "poorer" families to be identified? Means-testing always results in a low take-up. It is expensive because every family has to be assessed, and then monitored in case a father gets promoted or does overtime, or a mother goes back to work. This is some disincentive to self-improvement in Thatcher's Britain.

Child allowances belong in the sphere of fiscal policy and not of welfare hand-outs. A refusal by MPs with their index-linked pensions to protect children from the effects of inflation, for which they cannot possibly be blamed, would be disgraceful.

All governments have failed to come to terms with an effective relationship between taxation and benefits. That may be another story. But a Government which tries to put forward a family-caring philosophy should surely not start by discriminating against the family?

And none of the mothers referred to in your article need worry. They would get more money in France. So look forward to 1992.

Yours sincerely,
LENA M. JEGER,
House of Lords,
October 21.

Teacher drain

From Mrs Marjorie Preston
Sir, We learn (report, October 18) that over 40 per cent of newly-qualified teachers leave the profession within five years of starting work. Our colleges of education should consider their share of responsibility for such a disturbing state of affairs.

Investigation into testimonials and references of student applicants could be more careful and interviewing techniques could be improved. In particular, if the first year of training were seen as a probationary period, students might make more effort to reach a required standard and staff would be more vigilant in assessing performance. A fair decision could

then be made about their suitability and whether the cost of further training is likely to be justified.

Taxpayers' money would be saved, the wear and tear on the nervous system of head teachers landed with unsuitable staff would be avoided, and the student, relieved, could mercifully engage in a more fitting course of training.

There is no work more rewarding than teaching for those who are suited to it and enjoy it. And there is no more damaging a sentence to all concerned if the reverse is the case.
Yours faithfully,
MARJORIE R. PRESTON,
Underhill, Mountain Street,
Chilham, Nr Canterbury,
Kent,
October 18.

Church unity

From Mr Gerald Bonner
Sir, I wish I could share Sir James Cobban's confidence in the stability of the Anglican Communion (October 21). The Lambeth Conference gathered over the cracks (not very convincingly) but they remain, and threaten to become larger. Furthermore, the issue of female ordination, although dramatic and newsworthy, conceals a far more fundamental divergence, independent of the admission of women to the sacred ministry, about the nature of Christian truth.

It is clear that many Anglicans, both clerical and lay, no longer regard doctrines formerly deemed to be fundamental to orthodox Christian belief as having any absolute value, with the result that a man can be consecrated to the episcopate after having publicly disavowed articles of the Creed or remain in holy orders while holding views which are unrecognisable as those of Christian theism, without apparently feeling any qualms of conscience.

It is this preference for unity at the price of intellectual integrity and for toleration at the expense of truth which constitutes the lie in the soul of contemporary Anglicanism.

The trouble is that with all its defects, which I personally do not find admirable, still less lovable, it is difficult to find a better ecclesiastical hole to go to!
Yours faithfully,
GERALD BONNER,
University of Durham,
Department of Theology,
Abbey House,
Palace Green, Durham.

Wind turbines

From Mr Graham Cunningham
Sir, The Central Electricity Generating Board have prepared a comparison of non-fossil fuel costs which estimates that Hinkley Point would produce electricity at 2.2p per kilowatt hour, excluding possible post-accident compensation claims that could arise from loss of life, stock or habitation, whilst wind-produced energy would be around 2.8p per kWh.

Although 3,000 machines would be needed to produce the equivalent energy as a medium-sized nuclear power station, we now have the technology, the expertise, and enough first-rate architectural designers to make the obvious and the civilised choice.

Urban areas could have their own wind machines, just as Holland had its windmills, and rather than despoiling the environment and being faced with the insurmountable problem of nuclear waste, the UK could lead the world in the development of wind turbines.

How green is my Thatcher?
Yours faithfully,
G. CUNNINGHAM,
Marickville, 15 Avenue Road,
Torquay, Devon,
October 18.

Lager louts in 1860?

From Professor R. Davis
Sir, May I offer the following quotation:
"Last night", the British Minister in Naples commented the day after their arrival, "the cracks distinguished themselves in a truly national manner by getting drunk and disorderly, and in sleeping on and under the tables in the principal cafes which have today been closed in consequence."

A report of a half-forgotten European Cup match against Napoli — or were they lager louts who prefer Italian to Spanish holidays? In fact the description is that of the British Legion for Garibaldian Excursionists, as they had called themselves in England) who took part in Garibaldi's Neapolitan campaign of 1860, and is given by Sir Henry Elliot, British representative in Naples at that time.

Perhaps, the Englishman's behaviour abroad is more deeply engrained than one might have thought.
Yours etc.,
R. DAVIS,
17 Heymede,
Leatherhead, Surrey,
October 18.

A fine line

From Prebendary Hayes Treen
Sir, The answer to Mr Elliott's question (October 17) of leaving his newspaper in the train really depends upon the state in which he left it.

Neatly folded, it is an invitation to be read. Carelessly tossed aside, it is litter.
Yours faithfully,
HAYES TREEN,
13 The Lea,
Bishops Lydeard,
Taunton, Somerset,
October 17.

From Mr Bernard Murphy
Sir, I travelled to Euston Station last Friday, arriving at 4.30 a.m. Not wishing to be a litter lout, I deposited my copy of *The Times* in a rubbish receptacle.

Whilst waiting for the Underground to open, I noticed that it was taken out and used as a blanket. This I considered an act of charity.
Yours sincerely,
BERNARD MURPHY,
5 Wellington Street West,
Broughton,
Salford, Greater Manchester,
October 19.

From Mr K. J. Hilton
Sir, Regarding the disposal of *The Times*, it might be recalled that Mary Kingsley (*Travels in West Africa*, 1897) found that "when well wetted and beaten into pulp and mixed with gum and then boiled gently in a pipkin, there is simply nothing equal to *The Times* for stopping cracks or holes in one's canoe."
Yours faithfully,
K. J. HILTON,
Langlands Cottage,
Woodleigh,
Kingsbridge, South Devon,
October 20.

THE ARTS

TELEVISION

Whose fault?

The catalogue of misfortune suffered by eight-year-old Malika Head began with a ruptured appendix, was complicated by septicaemia, and was capped by an overdose of intravenous fluid. Brain damage and epileptic fits ensued: seven years later, she is speechless, physically helpless and requires constant nursing.

World in Action (Granada) reported on her case on the eve of her parents' suit for a million pounds' damages from the NHS. Only her mother's persistence in demanding to be told the clinical causes of her condition has brought the case this far, at its heart lies the medical profession's reluctance to go into detail for fear of compromising their legal position.

The chances for beneficent reform in this country are hampered by the spectre of the American system, where damages for negligence or malpractice are determined by juries who often seem to revel in awarding multi-zeroed settlements. The whole business may be seen as yet another example of British professional life coming up short against the threat of harsh economic verdicts or, in other words, lawyers' opportunism.

Ian Holm has been outside the law for so long as the spy-master in the same company's *Game, Set and Match* that his insurance rating must be well high invisible. Last night found him plodding through East Berlin in an attempt to clear up the little matter of the wrong man's having been topped in episode four.

After weeks of speculating that the double agent Brahms Four might prove to be a codename for Beethoven 13, we discovered instead a shock-haired music teacher more than anxious to re-settle in Elgarland. A yet greater shock arrived with the news that the London mole was not a little gentleman in a velvet waistcoat but a turgid blonde in a check suit. Since she was also the spy-master's wife, this came in useful when he found himself suffering at the hands of the KGB.

Notwithstanding some crashingly absurd dialogue, Holm made it all watchable.

Martin Cropper

John Russell Taylor previews a chance to evaluate and enjoy the work to date of one of the world's most popular artists

Hockney is as Hockney does

GALLERY

David Hockney: A Retrospective Tate Gallery

The first thing you are aware of on encountering a work by David Hockney is that it is a Hockney. Any work, in any medium: painting, print, photograph, collage, stage set, or any other of the more special forms his art has sometimes taken. The point needs insisting on, this consistency in the midst of diversity, for usually when we remark that an artist has so recognizable a thumbprint we are thinking of art which is very limited in its scope and minor in its standing: the work, say, of a Duffy or (a lot lower down the scale) a Buffet.

Of course, the \$64,000 question about Hockney is, and always has been, how major or minor is he? At least now, with the big mid-career retrospective at the Tate, from Thursday October 27 until January 8, we have a real opportunity to judge, or at any rate get our thoughts on the subject into some kind of provisional order.

Especially since, with every commercial gallery that has a Hockney or two in stock jumping on the bandwagon, we have notable accompanying shows of the graphics at three Waddington galleries in Cork Street (until November 19) and at the CCA Galleries in Dover Street (until November 5), and of the photographs at Hamiltons (until November 12), so that all that is really lacking for a complete conspectus is the theatrical designs, which must presumably be vivid in all our minds from the *Hockney Paints the Stage* show of three years ago.

And how, with all this attention to mark his attainment of his fifties, does Hockney look? Is his mid-career retrospective a mid-life crisis? It seems to have become rather fashionable of late, no doubt in understandable counterpoint to all the adulation he has

been receiving in the last 20 years, to say that of course he's very clever, but surely, well, a bit facile. This, of course, is true, but true in a manner which makes one wonder why in English (only, I think) facile is a derogatory word. What is wrong with facility, natural ease in the use of one's natural gifts?

Though, given Hockney's joyfully blazing colours, Matisse is probably the 20th-century precursor who springs at once to mind. Picasso is quite certainly the correct stalking horse. Not only is Hockney a great admirer of Picasso, early and late, and shows signs, in some of his later portraits especially, of strong influence, but in the whole shape of his creative personality he constantly brings Picasso to mind.

Hockney, like Picasso, has been delighted to turn his hand to anything, any medium of artistic expression, and make it his own. Picasso always seemed to think, with John Ford, that it was better to make bad art than no art at all, and just let it all pour out as the mood took him, good, bad and indifferent.

Hockney has this same generosity of output, this same prodigality of invention, this same happy disregard for niceties. To say that Hockney is in these respects like Picasso is not, naturally, the same as saying that he is as important or as great as Picasso, whatever either of those formulations may mean. But it does seem to me that, whatever snobbish reservations one might have about his acces-

sibility and his appalling popularity, he is someone it is not absurd to compare with the greatest master of modern art.

And here we come round to why his art is so easily recognizable. It is not because he has confined himself to a small area, cultivated with maximum sensibility (as even an artist as great as Bacon has), or has invented for himself a set of stylistic mannerisms which function like a trademark, and which (like his contemporary Patrick Caulfield) he cannot now escape, for all his brave attempts. It is simply that his eye is unmistakable and virtually infallible.

Hockney never tries to be Hockney. In his art (his life may be something else again) he never seems to be playing a role he has created for himself. He is a camera, literally and metaphorically: he sees, he likes, he records.

It does not matter in the slightest whether he does it through a real camera, in a single snapshot image, or with a paintbrush in his hand, or drawing on a lithographic stone, or sticking together his own Polaroid pictures in an intricate and unpredictable collage, or even pouring liquid paper into 'the semblance of Californian pools'.

It is always, inescapably, the same person that is doing it, the same vision of the world, external and internal, which is embodied and made visible for the rest of us. It may or may not be the greatest art, but it undoubtedly comes about the way that much of the greatest does come about.

Nor has Hockney at any time ceased to develop. The logic of the progression from the very first, not at all tentative works like the lithographed self-portrait of 1954 (with dark hair, yet), through the 'Pop Art' works of the early



Before he was a blond: "Self-portrait", 1954, a colour lithograph from the Hockney exhibition at the Tate

Sixties like "The First Marriage", "The Cruel Elephant" (its steps dogged with tiny inscriptions about the crawling insects beneath its unfeeling feet) or "We Two Boys Together Clinging", its homoerotic content teasingly indicated by inscriptions from the respectable (or was he?) Walt Whitman.

The bright colours are there already in theatrically inspired pictures some time before he had actually worked in the theatre, and before he had gone to the sunlight of Southern California for his palette's sake.

The stately procession of major portraits (often double) signals an acceptance of classicism rather than conformity, and he remains unflappably ready to tear the

patterns of traditional perspective apart whenever he wants to, as in the Mulholland Drive paintings or "A Walk around the Hotel Courtyard, Acapulco", to pastiche and appropriate and parody (again, like Picasso) in such paintings as "Kerby (after Hogarth) Useful Knowledge" as well as in the theatre designs; to darken his colour range to a bilious intensity to match the fatal passions of *Tristan and Isolde*, or simply because that is the way Yosemite struck him.

Nor has he ever ceased to think about what he is doing, and express his thoughts in speech and print. You do not have to agree with his theories about inside-out perspective, or the technique of the Chinese scroll painting, or the

role of photography in painting (interestingly, he is more against than for): What matters is the creation, and whether such ideas are creatively useful to him.

Even the most rigorous philosopher or phenomenologist could surely not doubt, looking around the Tate show, that Hockney represents thought triumphantly embodied in art, because, as all true artists should, he thinks with his eyes first, and then with his hands, and only then tries to put it together with his intellect.

When the eye, the hand and the mind all fuse into one, as in Hockney's best works they clearly do, it is hard to continue wittering on about details of pecking order. Like Yosemite, he is just unarguably there.

DANCE

Dual twist

The Trial of Prometheus
Covent Garden

In David Bintley's *The Trial of Prometheus*, the old idea is that of his hero as the archetype of the creative artist. The new idea is facing him with his critics, in the persons of the Olympians.

The gods of war and wine find Prometheus's male creation un-



Struggling: Simon Rice (left), Fiona Chadwick and Stephen Jefferies

manly: Apollo and his muses declare a female to lack grace; sprightly, cynical Hermes mocks them both. The artist's plea that he gave them life with his tears is in vain. Zeus condemns them to non-being.

Now comes the double twist. In

bidding farewell to them, Prometheus the fire-bringer encourages a little amorous heat. In no time the stage is full of their progeny; they celebrate with their maker while the Olympians flee.

It is an amusing tale, neatly told. Its weakness is that Bintley seems to have concentrated more on plot and character than on allowing the dances to break into a life of their own.

Perhaps he needed a score with more individuality than Geoffrey Burgon's sounds to have on first hearing. Music and choreography alike are entirely capable but seem too bland.

The work is lifted by the quality of the performances. Fiona Chadwick and Simon Rice, cleverly dressed by Terry Bartlett in tight painted like anatomical drawings, make the creatures engaging, touching and joyful by turn. The way Chadwick shows a raw grace even when responding clumsily to the muses' attentions is especially fine.

Stephen Jefferies brings immense dignity and passion to the title role, but a light touch too. Bruce Sansom is a vivacious Hermes.

John Percival

THEATRE

The Astronomer's Garden
Croydon Warehouse

The star-gazer is the Reverend John Flamsteed, first Astronomer Royal to Charles II, still in occupation at Greenwich in 1717, the year in which most of Kevin Hood's intriguing play—by *Galileo out of The Draughtsman's Contract*—is set. He sits out in all weathers adding to his great collection of stars. *The British Catalogue*. Unfortunately, in Frank Gatliff's performance, he comes across as little more than a cantankerous old stick.

The play's best character by a mile is the cynical young naturalist, Sir Philip Anstey. Bastard son of Halley, Flamsteed's arch-enemy, and eventual successor, Anstey manages to insinuate himself into the household (it is not at all clear how) and sets about trying to fitch the Catalogue and bed the maid, while Flamsteed's unbelievably naive, neglected wife (Emily Richard) falls hopelessly in love with him. Robin Sachs builds up his character polyphonically on the counterpoint of three value systems: science, sensuality and honour; the stuff of true drama is there.

Anstey is also the most convincing exponent of the play's larger idea, which links scientific enquiry with male chauvinism, death and destruction. This is not exactly new but telling connections are made between science and the male desire to dominate and ultimately the victory of interest over love. At the same time the down-grading of science and elevation of a non-scientific female principle is both unfair to men like Flamsteed and Halley (surely not the buffoons they seem here) and, in a way, since there have been female scientists, sexist. The director is Ted Craig.

Harry Evres

Flabby clutter

OPERA

The Gondoliers
Sadler's Wells

It is only four years since the New Sadler's Wells Opera staged a very presentable *Gondoliers* in Rosebery Avenue, well cast and prettily dressed by Tim Goodchild. It is curious, then, to return to one of the weakest works in the G & S canon, where Sullivan's invention all too often fails him and Gilbert's plot is mere reheated gruel despite some disarming lyrics. And it is even more curious to make the return in a production as flabbily directed (by Vernon Mound) as this new one.

Gerard Howland provides a strange set which, from the dress circle, looks like a straw boater with a blue ribbon tossed on to the Venetian lagoon. The rim remains still, while the crown revolves, dips and plunges as dukes and gondoliers make their exits and entrances across the water. Once in Act II and the Palace of Barataria the whole concept falls apart despite a pretty view of the Rock of Gibraltar—now we know where Barataria is. The boater becomes a hotel lounge full of tables and large bamboo chairs (shades of the *ENO Mikado*). No chance of dancing a cachucha or fandango, let alone a bolero, with all this clutter around. The cast at this point virtually give up.

But, earlier, Vernon Mound had shown little evidence of inspiring those on stage to point either words or music. The exceptions are John Ayldon's fruity Grand Inquisitor and Julian Moyle's spy but rough-voiced Plaza-Toro.



Spy: Julian Moyle as the Duke

Both know how to project a song across the footlights. Lauren Livingstone, survivor of the '84 cast with Richard Jackson's amiable Giuseppe, is the best of the rest. But there are some performances in other roles, best not specified, which have scarcely got beyond rehearsal stage. Simon Phipps lets the orchestra trundle along in palm court style.

Hilary Finch on this page was among those who gave *La belle Hélène* last week a less than enthusiastic welcome at the Wells. Someone needs to polish up the knocker on the big front door of the NSWO, especially the one leading to the casting and planning department.

John Higgins

CONCERT

Steve Reich
Festival Hall

If Steve Reich's music was only repetitive, the prospect of six whole concerts would be somewhat dismaying; as it is, one looks forward keenly to the rest of this South Bank series, especially after a first instalment, which included two pieces from his Romantic period in the mid-1970s, *Six Pianos* and *Music for 18 Musicians*, so invigoratingly played.

Of course, the repetitive element is crucial. Both these pieces work like musical automata and gain from repetition a ceremonial, objective charge. It is significant that the 18 musicians of their hour-long music can face in different directions, directed not by a conductor but by a rhythmic process that seems to take possession of them from outside.

But the very rigidity of the music creates a wonderful freedom for the ear: there is a huge difference here between the oppressive arpeggios of Philip Glass and

Reich's elegant, dancing patterns. One can be intoxicated by the sheer sound, by the peeling of so many hammered tones (pianos, xylophones and marimbas lead Reich's ensemble), and by the organ-like sustained products brought out by voices and clarinets in the larger piece. Alternatively one can follow the rational rhythmic machinery.

That way the biggest surprises come, since this one holds on to one repeating figure, all the others suddenly start to sound uncoordinated: one can flip from the generalized experience of repetition to a close-up experience of wild heterogeneity. In a rather similar way, one can try to map each repeating section of the entire texture on to the last, and find again that the differences stand out as crashing discords.

This great variety of experience depends on the music's lucidity, the openness of its engineering, but of course it depends too on the accuracy, sensitivity and commitment of each player. Reich is lucky to be working with such an expert crew, including several who have been with him for many years.

Paul Griffiths

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LEGAL & FINANCIAL

New service for the 1990s office

Frances Gibb reports on a company that should be a boon to solicitors wanting to take on a more up-to-date commercial aspect.

A Newcastle firm of solicitors, Peter Mangan and Co., has just notched up a place in the history of new ventures for lawyers by becoming the first firm to go "on-line" as a member of Solicitors' Financial and Property Services Ltd. The company, already promising to be one of the most significant developments for the small and medium size firms struggling to keep their share of the market, has just opened for business.

In the next few months, a succession of road shows will be staged by the Law Society, which has established the company so solicitors will be able to provide clients with a range of financial and property services.

Even before the launch of the company's information pack at the Law Society conference in Cardiff last week, 50 firms had joined and more than 1,000 firms have indicated interest, about 12 per cent of the total in England and Wales. The venture is unusual because, as one council member, Tony Giffing, puts it, "solicitors are not renowned for moving in commercial spheres".

Robin Smith, the new company's chairman, says: "The idea is to enable solicitors to provide a

relevant service in a competitive world in relation to financial services connected with property and with wealth management generally."

Solicitors who subscribe will receive the latest independent advice including mortgage arrangements, investment and personal tax advice, school fees planning, pension information. Within 15 minutes, they can have up-to-date quotations for life assurance or the cost of a mortgage, on a desk-top screen to be printed out for the client.

Mr Smith says: "The solicitor might be a property man, seeking to provide the client with a mortgage, or a lawyer concerned with probate, tax planning and financial advice, who is looking to the company to support that work."

The society has already appointed as broker to the new company a member of the Sedgwick Group, Sedgwick Personal Financial Management, from about 12 who tendered for the work.

The group already provides a similar computer network of services for a large group of solicitors in Scotland.

Thanks to a large subsidy from Sedgwick, the new company is

already up and running and any solicitor who now joins can offer its services to the public; there is no minimum number required for viability. What does it cost? Solicitors need not have the technology because the advice can be faxed, telexed or phoned. But computers will give access to an on-line life assurance quotation and information service. And Andrew Lockley, a Law Society official and one of the board members, says benefits of the technology do not just stop there.

"In the future," he says, "such equipment will give access to a



Smith: Relevance

network for electronic mail between solicitors' firms; and, most important, local authorities' search data.

The cost of technology, depending on whether solicitors adapt a personal computer or go for a dedicated terminal, ranges from £400 to £1,500.

For those starting from scratch, the Law Society has negotiated a cut-price deal with Preview Data Systems. Then there is the annual subscription. For a firm of one partner this will be (including VAT) £287.50; two to four partners, £345; five to 10, £690 and 11 partners or more, £1,035. But solicitors will be able to charge the client for financial advice and should easily be able to recoup the cost.

From the client's point of view, the big selling point is the solicitor's independence. The client seeking mortgage advice, for instance, will get what he or she would get from a building society or estate agent — an immediate quotation of what the mortgage will cost — but in the knowledge that any advice is not "tied". And the firm will be making much of the advantage that solicitors are obliged to disclose any commission received and can allow clients to benefit from such commission.

has just been launched by the national charity, Action Resource Centre, which works to provide community organizations with business-back up. The idea is that the charity will place solicitors on the management committees of voluntary groups to provide commercial and general advice and help analyse and solve problems.

BRIEFLY

claims, puts it in the league table of firms measured by partner number from 10th to fifth.

City and West End firms are being urged to do their bit for inner-city regeneration. A scheme called Lawyers in the Community

THE YOUNG PROFESSIONALS' COMPETITION



Demonstrate your powers of persuasion in *The Times* Young Professionals' Competition 1988. There are two categories — Legal, sponsored by Fishburn Boxer, the solicitors, and Financial, sponsored by Arthur Young, the accountants.

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Legal category

Write in no more than 700 words, in the style of a newspaper "opinion" piece, on whether trial

judges: Legal category: The Lord Chancellor, Lord Mackay of Clashfern, Clive Boxer of Fishburn Boxer, and Charles Wilson, Editor of *The Times*. Financial: Sir Hector Laing, chairman of United Biscuits, Peter Edwards of Arthur Young, and the Editor. Entries should be in duplicate, typed, double-spaced, and include the entrant's address, daytime telephone number, date of birth, and occupation or (if a student) subject of study. Closing date Friday, November 4.

Copies of the rules may be obtained from Ann Hicks or Victoria Tomlinson at the addresses above.

by the media can ever be justified. Send entries (marked *The Times* Young Professionals' Competition) to Ann Hicks, c/o Epigram Associates Ltd, New Ruskin House, 28-30 Little Russell Street, London WC1A 2HN.

Financial category

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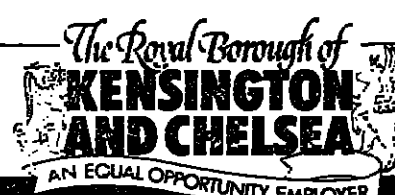
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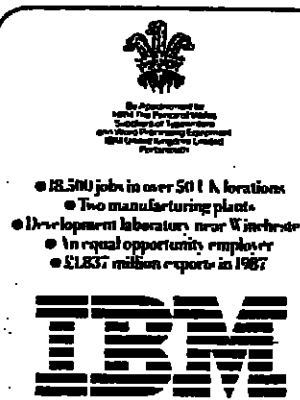
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Continued on page 49

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The Law Commission consists of a Chairman and four other Commissioners appointed by the Lord Chancellor for a fixed term of up to five years. The Chairman is a High Court Judge selected from his judicial duties and the other Commissioners are required to have experience as judges, lecturers, solicitors or teachers of law or universities.

There will be a vacancy for a Commissioner at the beginning of 1989, and the Lord Chancellor will wish to make an appointment as soon as possible after that date.

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Those wishing to apply, or to suggest the name of a suitable candidate for consideration, are invited to contact Mr. Michael Cohen, the Secretary, Law Commission, 17/18 John Street, Theobalds Road, London WC1N 2BQ (telephone 01-242 6841). He will provide, on request, application forms and details for the terms and conditions of appointment.

Applications must be received by 15 November 1988. Previous applicants for similar vacancy advertised earlier this year will not be considered unless they submit a fresh application.

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THE LAW

Judges should get a fair trial too

We all judge judges regularly and unjustly. The Right, Left and Centre of British politics are guilty of this unfairness.

When the judges undergo the ordeal of trial by television, the result is far from satisfactory. Television's mission to inform has not been met, with a few admirable exceptions, as much attention to presentation of the law as to its substance. Meanwhile, academic critics of the judges are often dismissed as too sophisticated, preoccupied with the jurisprudential stratosphere rather than with what really happens in the courts.

We can all picture the post-match discussion of a case, the *celebré*, be it *Gillick* or *Spencer*. The Conservative MP says that we should not blame the judges because they do not make the law but merely apply it. A moment's thought about, say, the *Gillick* case (in which the Court of Appeal allowed an appeal from the first instance judge only for the Law Lords to allow a further 3-2 appeal) or about the career of a famous, innovative judge such as

Lord Denning, would give the lie to this belief.

Although most lawyers spend most of their time applying settled law to unsettled facts, something else is happening in the appellate courts. The judges are being asked to settle unsettled law or to settle settled law. It is a creative, interpretive process, not a mechanical one.

The Labour MP will condemn the judges in terms we have all heard before. What can be expected from somebody who is old, white, rich, male, upper middle class, public school and Oxbridge? But that description could refer not only to the judge, but also to the Labour MP.

The most privileged of people, like Tony Benn, can be the most radical of thinkers. It is time for the Left to move beyond the tired accusations of class bias. The argument runs along these lines: if the judges were conservative, they would decide against trade unions



or Labour councils; they do decide against trade unions or Labour councils; therefore, they are conservative.

This is known in logic as the fallacy of affirming the consequent. The judges could be deciding against the trade unions or the Labour councils for other reasons. They might, for instance, be faithfully interpreting a statute passed by a Conservative-dominated Parliament which was explicitly designed to defeat the union or the council. It might even be the case that the union or council is in the wrong.

If class bias were really all that was at stake, how can we explain the prevalence of split decisions, of vigorous dissents, of the judges disagreeing while the result

changes on appeal after appeal? How can class bias explain the fact that this Government is defeated in the courts?

The Social or Liberal Democrat MP can be relied upon to criticize the judges for a failure to uphold underlying principles of civil liberties and to call for a Bill of Rights to solve the problem. But the conclusion of this argument, the call for a Bill of Rights, would give more power to the very people the premise says we cannot trust, namely the judges.

These three misguided approaches have their academic equivalents. The first is the fairytale notion that there is an Aladdin's Cave in which can be found the treasure of the common law once one learns the magic

passwords like "precedent" and "statutory interpretation". The second is the nightmare vision of a world in which judges are completely unconstrained, an "elective dictatorship" in which they are influenced by where they went to school. The third is one coherent set of principles which underlie the law and which can be used by the judge to determine the one right answer to any new legal problem.

It seems to me that the judges are influenced by three factors: first, their view of the past law (including any relevant statutes, cases or principles); second, their evaluation of the consequences of the alternative conclusions they might reach; and third, their view

of their own role in a democracy (in particular, whether they should be at liberty to trump the first factor by the second where the two conflict).

The fairy tale, the nightmare and the noble dream, in contrast, only capture part of the picture. In particular, they have masked the need for an important public dialogue between the judges and the judged on the third factor. Should judges defer to past law or develop the law in accordance with their (unselected) views?

I think that we would be wrong to offer an across-the-board solution to a complex problem. It depends on which area of the law is at stake, on the judge's position in the court hierarchy, on whether the law in question is statute or case-law and whether other, more accountable, law-reforming agencies are likely to remedy a perceived injustice.

Hence a first instance judge in a

commercial dispute, where the parties have been advised in advance by lawyers and have planned their businesses accordingly, will rightly be more concerned with the certainty of the previous law. But the Law Lords in a civil liberties case, such as the sterilization of a mentally handicapped teenager, where Parliament has not kept pace with doctors' dilemmas, ought to have more interest in its second factor.

There are indeed signs of hope that we might advance to consideration of these issues, signs from the political parties, the media and the legal professions. Distinguished Labour lawyers like John Smith or Bryan Gould will realize that law involves a commitment to argument which can only help those in Opposition who, by definition, lack power. The courts may not be perfect — they may be operating under laws laid down by a Conservative-controlled Parliament — but at least the powerful can be called to account in the courts.

Simon Lee is lecturer in law at King's College London and the author of *Judging Judges*, published yesterday by Faber & Faber (£12.95).

Queen's Bench Divisional Court

Law Report October 25 1988

Queen's Bench Divisional Court

By-laws beyond power of Act can still secure convictions Challenge to own food ban on remand fails

DPP v Hutchinson and Another
Regina v Secretary of State for Defence, Ex parte Parker
Regina v Same, Ex parte Hayman
Before Lord Justice Mann and Mr Justice Schiemann
[Judgment October 21]

A person could be lawfully convicted of an offence against a by-law when, although on its face it went beyond the powers of the enabling Act, had it been drawn only as widely as the empowering Act authorized, the person charged would still have been rightly convicted.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held in a reserved judgment in *DPP v Hutchinson and Another* (judgment by Lord Justice Mann and Mr Justice Schiemann) on the decision of Reading Crown Court (Judge Lait and two justices) who, on February 23, 1988, allowed an appeal against the conviction of the appellants, Emily Hutchinson and Georgina Smith from their conviction by Newbury Justices who, on July 23, 1986, had convicted them of entering a protected area without authority or permission, contrary to paragraph 2(b) of the RAF Greenham Common By-laws (SI 1985 No 485) and section 17(2) of the Military Lands Act 1892 (as amended by the Criminal Justice Act 1967) and (ii) refusing to make a declaration upon an application for judicial review by Jonathan Parker that by-law 3(k) of the RAF Greenham Common By-laws 1987 was *ultra vires*.

An application by Margaret Hayman for judicial review was not granted as the issues were no longer live.

Section 14 of the 1892 Act provides: "(1) Where any land belonging to the Secretary of State or to a volunteer corps is for the time being appropriated by or with the consent of a Secretary of State for any military purpose, a Secretary of State may make by-laws for regulating the use of the land for the purposes to which it is appropriated, and for securing the public against dangers arising from that use, with power to prohibit all intrusion on the land and all obstruction of the use thereof.

provided that no by-laws promulgated under this section shall authorize the Secretary of State to take away or prejudicially affect any right of common."

Case stated: Mr John Laws and Mr David Pannick for the prosecution. Miss Bowdler Lang for Georgina Smith; Jean Emily Hutchinson in person. Judicial review: Mr Stephen Sedley, QC and Miss Beverley Smeaton for Mr Parker; Mr David Pannick for the Secretary of State.

MR JUSTICE SCHIEMANN said there were before the court applications for judicial review and a case stated from a crown court. The cases had been heard together because they appeared to raise common points — the efficacy of certain by-laws made under the 1892 Act and in particular the question whether if those by-laws went beyond the powers in the enabling Act they might nevertheless be enforceable in so far as they did not go beyond the enabling Act.

The case stated concerned the Greenham Common By-laws, which the justices reviewed in the *Flyingdales* By-laws. Each set of by-laws was made in purported exercise of powers in section 14 of the 1892 Act.

Miss Hutchinson and Miss Smith had entered the protected area without authority or permission, contrary to paragraph 2(b) of the RAF Greenham Common By-laws (SI 1985 No 485) and section 17(2) of the Military Lands Act 1892 (as amended by the Criminal Justice Act 1967) and (ii) refusing to make a declaration upon an application for judicial review by Jonathan Parker that by-law 3(k) of the RAF Greenham Common By-laws 1987 was *ultra vires*.

Mr Parker was arrested and charged with contravening by-law 3(k) of the *Flyingdales* By-laws which provided: "No person shall remain in the controlled area after having been directed to leave."

He did not dispute that he was in the controlled area and that he was asked to leave. However, he challenged the validity of the by-laws in their entirety in that some of them prejudicially affected rights of common.

Neither of the ladies nor Mr Parker claimed that they themselves had any rights of common, nor did they claim to have been attempting to exercise them on behalf of anyone else. It followed that had the by-laws been drafted more narrowly so as not to prejudicially affect any rights of common then they would have been unable to run their argument.

Mr Sedley submitted that

"any rights of common" was not confined to rights of common properly so-called but was wide enough to embrace any general practice of taking air and exercise over common land.

While in certain circumstances Parliament and the courts had taken cognizance of the wide spread of public habit of walking over commons, his Lordship did not accept that the phrase as used in the 1892 Act had anything other than its ordinary meaning.

To construe the proviso as covering more than legal rights would make it impossible in practice for the Secretary of State to use for military purposes any common land. If section 14(1) had meant that no common land might be used for military purposes it would have said so.

It was then necessary to determine the proper construction of the proviso. In his Lordship's judgment it was Parliament's intention to secure that the Secretary of State should not, by the use of by-laws, make a declaration that he intended to exercise powers in a way which would be prejudicially affect rights of common.

Thus on their face the by-laws prejudicially affected rights of common which was not authorized by the empowering Act and that the ladies and Mr Parker had no right to exercise any right of common and what they did was on the face of it prohibited by or under the by-laws.

The essential and important questions before the court were: 1. Whether, and if so in what circumstances, a person could lawfully be convicted of an offence against a by-law when the by-law on its face went wider in its field of application than was permitted by the empowering Act and yet had the by-law been drawn only as widely as the empowering Act authorized, the person convicted would undoubtedly have been rightly convicted.

2. Whether, and if so in what circumstances, a person could be convicted of an offence against a by-law when the by-law maker must have failed to take into account a relevant consideration, namely that he had no power to make a by-law of the breadth of application which the relevant by-law had.

Mr Sedley submitted, *inter alia*, that the court's power of modification or severance could only be used negatively and restrictively. That meant that

the court was confined to finding a discrete element in the by-law which was *ultra vires* and then reducing the ambit of the instrument to correspond with the power.

His Lordship accepted that in a modification exercise the court could only do so when the ambit of the decision so as to reflect the limitations of the empowering statute. The court could not make the decision cover cases which, although within the ambit of the empowering statute, were not in fact covered by the decision under review.

However, in his Lordship's judgment it was clear that the drafting technique used by the court in modifying the decision — excising out words, altering a plan to which reference was made, adding words, or making a declaration that the decision did not cover certain cases — was not of itself impermissible.

When a court was performing an exercise which was essentially the alteration of a decision made by another under statutory powers given to that other and not to the court, the court should only do so when satisfied that the altered decision represented that which the decision-maker would have enacted had he appreciated the limitation on his powers. For the court to go further would be to assume the function of the decision-maker.

If, however, the court restricted itself in performing the modification exercise then it also overcame the difficulty that the decision-maker failed to take into account the fact that he did not have such wide powers as he thought he had or was labouring under some mistake of fact. If the court was in any doubt as to the proper exercise of its power to modify the decision-maker to decide afresh.

It was arguable that the legal approach his Lordship had adopted was stricter, as against the by-law maker, than that which the court had adopted in *Dunkley v Evans* (1981) 1 WLR 1522 and *Thames Water Authority v Elmbridge Borough Council* (1983) 1 QB 570 and that he was bound by authority to adopt a laxer approach to modification.

Since such a laxer approach would only weaken the position of those challenging the by-laws, his Lordship did not need to trouble further since if he had

erred he had erred in their favour.

His Lordship accepted that there were several techniques, whether of by-law drafting or of buying out, which the Secretary of State might have adopted for dealing with any commoners who might object to the matter in the present case as it was not dealing with commoners. What had to be certain, was not what would have happened to the commoners but what would have happened to the rest of the world.

Applying the approach his Lordship had indicated, it was clear that the by-law maker, if he had appreciated the limitation on his powers, would nevertheless have gone on to make the by-laws on such a way that the proviso to section 14(1) was

Pay forfeit unlawful

Patterson v Penname Ltd

An employer wishing to employ a person on the basis that he would forfeit a week's wages unless he gave a specified period of notice before leaving should obtain the employee's written consent, otherwise section 1 of the Wages Act 1986 would render the deduction unlawful.

Mr Justice Wood, sitting in the Employment Appeal Tribunal with Mr Lewis and Mr J. C. Ramsay so held on October 12 when dismissing an appeal by Penname Ltd from a decision of the Leicester industrial tribunal in January awarding the employee, Mr David Patterson, a week's wages.

HIS LORDSHIP said that the employee was taken on for a

three-month trial period and was given a letter stating: "Should you wish to terminate your employment then a week's notice must be written out and worked. In the event of a default of the above, a week's wages will be forfeited." It was an unusual term because it meant that the employee would not be paid for a week's work he had done.

Section 1(1)(b) of the 1986 Act stated that an employer should not make any deduction from any wages of any worker unless he had previously signified his agreement in writing. The fact that the employee had orally agreed was not enough; written consent was necessary and that had not been provided. The appeal would be dismissed.

Section 47 of the Prison Act 1952 provides: "(4) Rules made under this section shall provide for the special treatment of the following persons: (a) any person detained in prison, not being a person serving a sentence."

Mr Gerard Clarke for the applicant; Mr David Pannick for the Home Secretary.

LORD JUSTICE MANN said the applicant was a vegetarian and although given a vegetarian diet while on remand he complained that the diet did not give him sufficient nutrition. He required food from resources of his own or of his friends. However, the 1988 Rules precluded him from having access to such resources.

The Prison Rules (SI 1964 No 388) had allowed an unconvicted prisoner to receive food provided at his own expense or that of his friends. That privilege was abolished by the statutory instrument which was now impugned.

The reasons for withdrawing the privilege were set out in the government reply to the Third Report from the Home Affairs Committee, Session 1986/87 (HC 35-1).

The report stated, *inter alia*: "The unconvicted prisoners' food privilege has its origin in the distant past when such prisoners were not provided with food by the prison authorities and were dependent upon food for which they could pay themselves or which their relatives or friends could bring in for them."

"Those conditions are a far cry from the high standard of food and catering now provided at public expense. Present arrangements provide a channel for smuggling drugs and other unauthorized articles into prison establishments... The present arrangements are also a constant cause of concern on health grounds."

Mr Clarke argued that the Home Secretary had no power to deprive unconvicted prisoners of civil rights including the right to consume food of their own choice and that a blanket ban upon the exercise of the right to choose food of one's choice was disproportionate to the objectives sought to be achieved and so was unreasonable.

Section 47(4) required that there should be "some" special treatment for unconvicted persons. It did not predicate what the treatment should be.

What the treatment should be was a matter for the judgment of the Home Secretary and his judgment could only be impugned if it was perverse which it was not in the present case and the application would be dismissed.

Mr Justice Schiemann delivered a concurring judgment. Solicitors: Mr Paul Hunt, Southwark; Treasury Solicitor.

Jersey is not a sovereign state

Chloride Industrial Batteries Ltd and Another v F & W Freight Ltd

Jersey was not a sovereign state and was not competent to enter into an international convention on its own behalf, so that the provisions of the Carriage of Goods by Road Act 1965 which gave effect to the Convention of 1956 for the International Carriage of Goods by Road signed at Geneva on May 19, 1956, did not apply to goods carried by road from Manchester and then on to Jersey.

Mr Justice Sheen so stated in the Queen's Bench Division on October 12 when giving judgment on a preliminary issue raised by the parties.

HIS LORDSHIP said that the question before the court was whether the Convention applied to goods carried from Manchester to Jersey. The Convention would apply if the first plaintiffs' premises in Manchester and the second plaintiffs' premises in Jersey were in different countries within the meaning of the word "country" in article 1.

Jersey was not a sovereign state and was not competent to enter into an international convention on its own behalf. The Convention could become applicable to Jersey only by an Order in Council which directed that the 1965 Act should extend to Jersey.

For the purpose of the Convention, Jersey was not a different country from the United Kingdom and the contract for the carriage of the goods was not in respect of international carriage.

That situation was not changed by virtue of the fact that students or their parents were sometimes required to pay fees or costs of education with a view to contributing to the operational costs of the system. *A fortiori*, the simple fact that a payment of a *minerval* was imposed on foreign students alone could not have that effect.

On the one hand, by establishing and maintaining such a system, the state was carrying out its aims in the social, cultural and educational fields in respect of its people, rather than becoming involved in private activities.

On the other hand, such a system was as a general rule financed by public funds and not by the students or their parents.

That situation was not changed by virtue of the fact that students or their parents were sometimes required to pay fees or costs of education with a view to contributing to the operational costs of the system. *A fortiori*, the simple fact that a payment of a *minerval* was imposed on foreign students alone could not have that effect.

By its third question the national court wished to know whether Community law prohibited a member state from imposing a *minerval* upon the children of migrant workers resident in the territory of a member state as a condition for access to school courses provided in its territory which such a charge was not imposed on the nationals of that other member state.

It was necessary to point out first that that question only arose in cases which did not involve vocational training within the meaning of article 128 of the EEC Treaty. In such cases it was clear from the *Gravier* judgment that the prohibition of discrimination on the grounds of nationality laid down in article 7 of the EEC Treaty was applicable in any event.

On those grounds the European Court of Justice ruled: 1. Those years of an educational course which, taken in isolation, could not be regarded as vocational training were, none the less, to be so regarded, provided, however, that course constituted an educational unit which prepared for a qualification for a particular profession, trade or employment or which provided the necessary skills for such a profession, trade or employment.

2. Article 59 of the EEC Treaty was to be interpreted as meaning that courses provided in a technical institute of secondary education in the context of a national educational system could not be regarded as services within the meaning of that article.

3. Article 12 of Council Regulation No 1612/68 did not prevent a member state from imposing a *minerval* as a condition for access to general educational courses provided in its territory to children of migrant workers resident in another member state even though that charge was not imposed upon nationals of that member state.

European Law Report

Luxembourg

National education courses are not services provided for remuneration

Belgian State v Humbel
Case 263/86

Before Judge G. Bosco, acting as President and Judges G. C. Rodriguez Iglesias, T. Koopmans, U. Everling, K. Behlmann, Y. Gattnot, C. N. Kakouris, R. Joliet and F. A. Schockweiler.

Advocate General Sir Gordon Slynn
(Opinion March 15, 1988)
[Judgment September 27]

Courses given in the context of a national educational system could not be considered "services" within the meaning of the EEC Treaty since they were not normally provided for remuneration.

Proceedings had been brought against Mr and Mrs Humbel in their capacity as guardians *ad litem* of their son Frederic, for the recovery of 35,000 Belgian francs, being the amount of *minerval* (special registration fee) due in respect of the course followed by Frederic during the 1984-1985 academic year at the Institut d'enseignement general et technique de l'Etat (State Institute for general and technical education), Libramont, Belgium.

The education provided in that institute was secondary education provided in the context of the national educational system.

The course concerned lasted in total six years and included three successive levels. The classes in which Frederic was registered in 1984-1985 constituted the second level which included general basic education and did not therefore cover specifically vocational subjects. By contrast, the classes which he was to follow during the third stage were regarded by national legislation as constituting vocational training, to follow those courses so *minerval* was payable.

Frederic and his parents were of French nationality but were resident in Luxembourg where the father was employed.

The Belgian State brought its action following Humbel's refusal to pay the *minerval* of 35,000 Belgian francs, which

was not payable by Belgian students.

The judge de paix (magistrate), Neufchateau stayed the proceedings and referred three questions to the Court of Justice of the European Communities for a preliminary ruling.

In its judgment the European Court of Justice held as follows:

First question
The first question sought to establish whether a course such as that involved in the present case might be regarded as a service within the meaning of the EEC Treaty.

It was first necessary to recall that the Court, in Case 293/83 *Gravier v City of Liège* (1985) ECR 593, had ruled that any form of education which prepared for a qualification for a particular profession, trade or employment or which provided the necessary skills for such a profession, trade or employment was vocational training.

Article 4 of the cultural agreement between Belgium and the Federal Republic of Germany set up a system of grants to enable nationals of one of the two countries to undertake studies, research or training in the other.

The Commission general aux relations internationales de la Communauté française de Belgique (Secretariat General for International Relations of the French Community of Belgium (CGRI)) refused to put her name forward for such a grant on the ground that grants awarded pursuant to the cultural agreement were intended exclusively for candidates of Belgian nationality.

Miss Matzeu challenged that refusal before the Conseil d'Etat (State Council) which stayed the proceedings and referred a question to the Court of Justice of the European Communities for a preliminary

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24/86 *Blaziot and Others v Belgian State* (The Times April 4, 1988).

It was for the national court to apply those criteria to the facts of the present case.

Second question
The second question raised the problem of whether article 59 of the EEC Treaty should be interpreted as meaning that courses provided in a technical institute providing secondary education in the context of the national educational system might be regarded as services within the meaning of article 59 of the EEC Treaty.

In that regard it was necessary to recall that only services "normally" provided for remuneration were covered by the provision of the chapter of the Treaty on services.

Even if the concept of remuneration was not expressly defined in articles 59 or 60 its scope might be deduced from the provisions of the second paragraph of article 60 which provided that services included, in particular, activities of an industrial or commercial character as well as those of craftsmen and of the professions.

The typical characteristic of remuneration was, therefore, that it constituted the economic consideration for the provision of the service concerned, consideration which was normally agreed between the provider and the recipient of the service.

Courses provided in the context of the national educational system did not have that characteristic.

On the one hand, by establishing and maintaining such a system, the state was carrying out its aims in the social, cultural and educational fields in respect of its people, rather than becoming involved in private activities.

On the other hand, such a system was as a general rule financed by public funds and not by the students or their parents.

That situation was not changed by virtue of the fact that students or their parents were sometimes required to pay fees or costs of education with a view to contributing to the operational costs of the system. *A fortiori*, the simple fact that a payment of a *minerval* was imposed on foreign students alone could not have that effect.

By its third question the national court wished to know whether Community law prohibited a member state from imposing a *minerval* upon the children of migrant workers resident in the territory of a member state as a condition for access to school courses provided in its territory which such a charge was not imposed on the nationals of that other member state.

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INFORMATION SERVICE

This selective guide to entertainment and events throughout Britain appears from Monday to Friday, followed in the Review section on Saturday by a preview of the week ahead. Items should be sent to The Times Information Service, PO Box 7, 1 Virginia Street, London E1 9XN

BOOKING KEY
★ Seats available
★ Returns only
(D) Access for disabled

THEATRE
LONDON

★ **THE BACCHAE** Nancy Meckler's Euripides, first seen at Edinburgh, Lyric Studio Theatre, King St W6 (01-741 2311). Tube: Hammersmith. Preview tonight, 8pm. Press night tomorrow, 7pm. Then Mon-Sat 8pm. £5. (D)

★ **BRIGADOON** Scotch mists and magic in revival of Lerner and Loewe's first hit musical. Victoria Palace, Victoria St SW1 (01-834 1317). Tube: Victoria. Press night tonight, 7.30pm. Then Mon-Sat 7.30pm. 10pm. Mat Thurs. Sat 2.30pm. £20. 20th Thurs mat. all seats half-price.

★ **CAN-CAN** Cole Porter's Paris musical. Utopia Theatre starring Donna McKelvie, Mike O'Shea and Bernard Allen. Strand Theatre, Strand, WC2 (01-836 2660). Tube: Covent Garden. Preview tonight 7.45pm. Press night tomorrow, 7pm. Then Mon-Sat 7.45pm. Mats Wed and Sat 2pm. Preview 5.30pm. £17.50, from Oct 26, £25.50-£19.50. (D)

★ **DEAD DAD DOG** Comedy hit from Edinburgh Festival: talkative barmen cursed and blessed with a talkative dead father. Royal Court Theatre (Theatre Upstairs), Sloane Sq SW1 (01-730 1745). Tube: Sloane Sq. Mon-Sat 7.30-8.45pm. Mat Sat 2.30-4.45pm. £25. (D)

★ **DIVINE GOSSIP** Bizarre Stephen Lowe plays mixes up D.H. Lawrence, George Orwell and Louis Brooks in the songbook 'Pans of 1925'. The Piccadilly Theatre, EC2 (01-838 8891). Tube: Barbican/Moorgate/St Paul's. Tonight 7.30pm. Then in repertoire. Even 8.30pm. £25. (D)

★ **THE JUNGLE** Buster Theatre play spun from the writings of Steve Smith, performed by four actresses and a cello. Lighthouse Theatre, 503 Battersea Park Rd. SW1 (01-228 2620). Preview tonight, 7.45pm. Then Mon-Sat 8.30pm. Mon-Thurs 8.45pm. Fri and Sat 8.45pm. £25. (D)

★ **MRS VERSHININ** Great idea for a play behind the scenes of *Three Sisters* and *Uncle Vanya*. Riverside Studios, Crisp Rd, W6 (01-748 3554). Tube: Hammersmith. Mon-Sat 8.30pm. Mon 8.45pm. £25. (D)

★ **THE SECRET RAPTURE** New David Hare play in which Penelope Wilton and Jill Baker play two sisters adapting to their father's death. National Theatre (Lyttelton), South Bank, SE1 (01-928 2252). Tube: Waterloo. Tonight 7.45pm. Then in repertoire. £25.00-£14. (D)

★ **THE TEMPEST** Max von Sydow heads a starry cast in Jonathan Miller's excellent production. Old Vic Theatre, Waterloo Rd. SE1 (01-928 7616). Tube: Waterloo. Mon-Fri 7.30pm and Sat 7.45pm. Mats Wed 2.30pm and Sat 4.45pm. £25. (D)

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 28

CANESCENT

(b) Hoary, growing white from the Latin *canescere* to become white: "An aureole of canescence had flamed out round his head and his jaw collapsed on his neck; he could have been the first man on earth, father of us all."

SIRENIC

(a) Charming, melodious, alluring, melodious, but ultimately bad news, like a Siren: "I can truly describe her intense power over me as that of the siren on the restless tides, a Siren song."

SNOOZE

(c) To glaze, or move steadily forward, from the Old Scandinavian (past tense) "Wag a sharp rap did the old ship get for the ice as she snoozed along."

DO-RAG

(b) Black idiom for a cloth or scarf worn over a processed hair-do or "do": "Wears a do-rag on his new hairdo as he pours out hatred of whites."

OUT OF TOWN

MANCHESTER ★ *Homeland* Ex-colonial judge finds himself reviewing his past when a black girl appears at his convalescent home. Contact Theatre, Oxford Rd (061-274 4747). Mon-Sat 7.30pm, £25-25. (D)

RICHMOND ★ *Homecoming* Ian McKellen and Jane Asher in *Homecoming* at the Richmond Theatre, The Green (01-840 0089). Mon-Sat 7.45pm, £25-25. (D)

BRISTOL ★ *Inventing a New Colour* See caption. Old Vic Theatre, King St (0272 252525). Starts tomorrow 7.30pm. Then Mon-Sat 7.30pm. Mat Sat 2pm. £25. (D)

FILMS

★ Also on national release

★ *Adventure* booking possible

BUSTER (15) Singer Phil Collins makes his cinema debut in a film surveying the life and loves of Buster Edwards of Great Train Robbery fame (102 min). Odeon High St Kensington (01-822 5444). Progs 1.00, 3.30, 6.00, 8.30. Odeon Swiss Cottage (01-722 5905, 566 3057). Progs 1.30, 3.40, 6.00, 8.45. Progs 1.40, 3.50, 6.10, 8.25.

DISTANT VOICES, STILL LIVES (15) Terence Davies's remarkable new film set in Liverpool in the 1940s and '50s - a moving exorcism of family ghosts, gloriously set to popular music. With Freda Dowie and Peter Postlethwaite (85 min). St Leonards (01-836 0891). Progs 1.20, 3.15, 5.10, 7.10, 9.10.

DREAM DEMON (18) An American girl searching for her roots comes to the aid of a socialist bride who experiences her own nightmares. Fascist British horror film, directed by Harley Cokidis, 85 min. St Leonards (01-836 0891). Progs 1.20, 3.15, 5.10, 7.10, 9.10.

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Trio con brio

3 Trade Zone is the title of a new exhibition featuring work by a trio of young designers, all of whom devise one-off items of clothing and furniture. Jeffrey James specialises in sculptural light fittings and "special objects". His wardrobe (right), called *Garderober* (22,970), features an unlikely marriage of elements from a sentry box, a changing cubicle and, in the crossed broadsword and draped Hanging Stuart tartan, the paraphernalia of Highland dress.

Another of his exhibits is *Solea*, a pair of shoes, a fixture contrived from costume jewellery and laboratory equipment. Michelle Clapton's clothes, modelled right (jacket £690, trousers £230, shirt and waistcoat £390), are more traditional though fashionably baggy and made from natural, hand-dyed fabrics. She is best known for styling pop videos, having dressed the Thompson Twins, Hollywood Beyond, Chris Rea and the Verve. Papa Rapp, Paul Henderson, who specialises in the job of Max Wall's personal shoe-maker, specialises in elongated, jester-like footwear which comes in an assortment of materials from tapestry to suede. The pair illustrated here cost £200. 3 Trade Zone starts tomorrow at the Discreetly Bizarre (sic) Gallery, 166 New Cavendish Street, London W1 (01-631 3140). To see Sat 11am-7pm, free, until Dec 3. *David Lee*

CONCERTS

LUNCHTIME

★ **GRAND GRAHAM** Neville Graham plays Weber's Grand Duo Concertino, Liszt's Piano Sonata Op 10 No 1. The pianist is Nicholas Stobbe. St Martin-in-the-Fields, Trafalgar Sq, London WC2 (01-838 1830). 1.05-2pm, free. (D)

★ **FROM HUNGARY** The Eder Quartet from Hungary performs Mendelssohn's *Andante* and Schumann's *Andante* and Schumann's *Piano Quintet*. St Martin-in-the-Fields, Trafalgar Sq, London WC2 (01-838 1830). 1.05-2pm, £2. (D)

EVENING

★ **TAVERNER TIME** Andrew Parrott conducts the Taverner Consort in the second concert of the "Noble Art of Portentous Music" series. It includes *Cardoso's Missa Regina*, *Costo's Tiento*, *Magalhães's Magnificat*, and *Proch's Mass*. St Martin-in-the-Fields, Trafalgar Sq, London WC2 (01-838 1830). 7.30pm, £25-25. (D)

★ **JU HEE SU** The City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra are conducted by Ju HEE SU. The pianist is Nicholas Stobbe. St Martin-in-the-Fields, Trafalgar Sq, London WC2 (01-838 1830). 7.30pm, £25-25. (D)

★ **ALER AWARD** David Aler, baritone, gives the English Song Award Recital with lyrics by Purcell, Vaughan Williams, Proch, and Schumann. St Martin-in-the-Fields, Trafalgar Sq, London WC2 (01-838 1830). 7.30pm, £25-25. (D)

★ **SOUTH BANK RITE** The Hallé Orchestra is conducted by Stanislaw Skrowaczewski in *Stravinsky's Sacre du Printemps*, Tchaikovsky's *Romeo and Juliet* Fantasy-Overture, and in Prokofiev's *Concerto for Piano and Orchestra No 2*. The soloist is Leeds prizewinner Vladimir Ovchinnikov. Royal Festival Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (01-928 8800). 7.30-9.30pm, £25-15. (D)

★ **SOUTH BANK REICH** Steve Reich and Musicians play his music for *Plagues of Wood*, *Vermont Counterpoint*, *Four Organs*, *Sixties* and give the UK premiere of *Violin Concerto* for Peter Hall's original production. Mayflower Theatre, Southampton (0703 227771). 7.15-10.15pm, £25-15. (D)

★ **LUNA DI LAMMERMOOR** First night in Nottingham for Valerio Maestri in the title role of *Opera North's* grand production. Theatre Royal, Nottingham (0602 425200). 7.15-10.15pm, £25-15. (D)

★ **THE MAGIC FLUTE** Jonathan Miller's delightfully bookish production, restaged once again for Scottish Opera's tour, with Malcolm Davies as Pamina. Theatre Royal, Newcastle (091-232 2061). 7.15-10.15pm, £25-15. (D)

★ **DO GIOVANNI/TURANDOT** Alternative versions by, respectively, Gergely and Busoni form a typically entertaining double-bill at Westford Theatre Royal, Westford, Essex (083-22144). 9.10-10.30pm, £25. (D)

★ **LOVE AND MONEY** Start of a British tour by the Scottish band *Highly Tipped* for success despite a rather mundane debut album, *Strange Kind of Love*. Riverside, 51-53 Melburn St, Newcastle (091 261 4366). 7.30pm, £25-15. (D)

ROCK

★ **LOVE AND MONEY** Start of a British tour by the Scottish band *Highly Tipped* for success despite a rather mundane debut album, *Strange Kind of Love*. Riverside, 51-53 Melburn St, Newcastle (091 261 4366). 7.30pm, £25-15. (D)

OPERA

★ **SIMON BOCCACCINI** Welcome return of David Allen's strikingly designed production of one of Verdi's most underestimated operas. *Macbeth* conducted by a cast led by Malcolm Donnelly. Theatre Upstairs on November 22.

DANCE

★ **TRIAL OF PROMETHEUS** David Bintley's new work for the Royal Ballet, with his Penguin Café and Ashton's *Rhapsody*. Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London WC2 (01-240 1066). 7.30-9.45pm, £21-22. (D)

★ **THEME AND VARIATIONS** Sadler's Wells Royal Ballet in Balanchine's showpiece classic, with Fokine's *Prokofiev* and *Les Sylphes*. Apollo Theatre, George St, Oxford (0885-244544). 7.30-9.45pm, £4-£12. Also mat today, 2-4.15pm, £2-25. (D)

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent

The above position is taken from the game between Capablanca (White) and Lasker (Black) played in the World Championship in Havana in 1921. White plays and wins. The winning move will be given in tomorrow's Times.

Solution to yesterday's position: White wins with 1 Qxd7+.

CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 1702

ACROSS

- 1 Short form (12)
- 2 Very sad (7)
- 3 Put in new trainee (5)
- 4 Ship's complement (4)
- 5 Coated with spiced paste (8)
- 6 Furtive (3)
- 7 Hint (3)
- 8 Victorious count (3)
- 9 Insistent (8)
- 10 Twisted (4)
- 11 Attempted (5)
- 12 Suspicion (7)
- 13 Vacationist (7-5)

DOWN

- 1 Universities attack (7)
- 2 Split (4)
- 3 Operate to amputate (13)
- 4 Large plane (8)
- 5 Motivate (5)
- 6 Distinguished (5)
- 7 Vertices (6)
- 8 Left helpline (8)
- 9 Grating (5)
- 10 Predatory gull-like bird (4)
- 11 Drainage channel (5)

SOLUTION TO NO 1701

ACROSS: 2 Leds 3 Opaque 8 Edward Scissor 10 Tor 11 Yulan 12 Out-stay 14 Toss 15 Owe 16 Infests 17 Minnie 19 Taj 22 Desperation
DOWN: 1 Lowbrow 2 Dirt 4 Playpus 5 Quail 6 Enhance 7 Tent 9 Sarc-nice 13 Thicket 14 Tempest 15 Ostich 18 Midge 20 Junk 21 Sari

ENTERTAINMENTS

OPERA & BALLET

COLLEGE 8 836 3161 or 240 8000.

ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA

Ton 7.30 *Ships* Beaumont.

Ton 7.30 *La Traviata*.

Opera in Southern

Northampton Theatre Company

at the Box Office 025 257771

Oct 28th-29th Tickets are at

All Parts from £6.50

BYRONIAN Theatre

From 10.00

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THEATRES

ADOLPH 836 7611 or 240 7912

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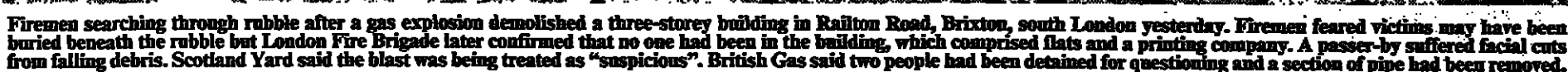
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Winner of 1988 Pulitzer Prize

APOLLO Theatre, Ave. 01-437

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Commons sketch



Continued from page 1

Mr Johnson added that lawyers on both sides of the profession had certain skills and it was important to "get the best possible match between those skills".

**From Richard Owen
Luxembourg**

Later film showed the blackened faces and crushed bodies of the dead.

Mrs Andries, supported by three of her daughters, said outside the court: "I saw my husband several times in the film. I saw his body. I cried all the way through. It was hor-

mid: "It is very difficult to make a film. It was made in 1971. The English were massacred. They are killers. All I want for those responsible is death for their crimes."

The judge ruled that the prosecutor should not ask the jury to

The defence then made a request that the entire submission should be read, but instead it would withdraw this submission if the Public Protector made available the document.

in the case. Mrs. Rozzariani has told her interrogators that she is a Lebanese Christian Maronite and indeed fought for them as a guerrilla until two months ago.

According to her testimony, leaked to the Italian Press, "the documents that I had were for a man who was

Commons sketch

WASHINGTON: The US yesterday denied any connection with or knowledge of **Signor Aldo Anghessa** (Reuters reports).

"Whatever he was doing, he has nothing to do with the group," said a State Department spokesman. "The group is not connected to the US Government."

Later film showed the blackened faces and crushed bodies of the dead.

Mrs Andries, supported by three of her daughters, said outside the court: "I saw my husband several times in the film. I saw his body. I cried all the way through. It was hor-

According to her testimony, leaked to the Italian Press, "the documents that I had were for a man who was

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which of the possible definitions is correct?

SIRENIC
a. Fascinating and dangerous
b. Peace-making
c. Making a deafening noise

Scotland. Extensive fog in western coastal areas and over high ground. South and south-east England may have only light rain and brighter interludes possible in east. Temperatures will vary from cold in east to warm in the south-east. Outlook: cloud and rain giving way to showers and some sunshine.

MIDDAY: t=thunder; d=drizzle; fg=log; s=sun;
sl=sleet; sn=snow; f=fer; c=cloud; r=rain

	C	F		C	F	
Ajaccio	22	72	f	Luxor	35	95
Algeria	26	79	s	Malta	22	72
Alexandria	25	77	f	Melb'rne	15	59
Algiers	22	72	s	Mexico C ^a	21	70
Amman	18	54	s	Moscow	31	80

Date	Sun In	Rain In	Max	
			C	F

Scarboro	-	-	11	52	fog
Huntinton	1.3	.01	15	59	cloudy
Cromer	0.8	-	15	59	cloudy
Lowestoft	1.9	-	14	57	cloudy
Southend	1.9	-	14	57	bright
Marston	0.7	-	14	57	chill

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	1.22	7.4	1.22	7.4

Concord (average)	1.23	7.4	1.33	7.4
Aberdeen	12.28	4.6	1.06	4.4
Avonmouth	6.53	13.7	7.13	14.0
Belfast	10.34	3.6	10.51	3.7
Cardiff	6.38	12.6	6.58	12.9
Devonport	5.34	5.8	5.54	5.9

[illegible]

Australia \$	2.22	2.10
Austria Sch	22.80	21.40
Belgium Fr	68.80	65.30
Canada \$	2.175	2.065
Denmark Kr	12.48	11.89
Finland Mk	7.75	7.35

Yesterday: Temp: max 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., 17 (63); min 6 p.m. to 6 a.m., 13 (55). Humidity: 6 p.m., 79 per cent. Rain: 24 hr to 6 p.m., 0.07 in. Surf: 24 hr to 6 p.m., 22 hrs. Bar. mean sea level, 6 p.m., 1119.7 millibars, rising.

YESTERDAY Temperatures at midday yesterday: c. cloud: 1.

Temperatures at midday yesterday: c. cloud: 1.

C F		C F	
Belfast	14 57	Greenway	15 59
Erasmusburg	13 55	Irishman	9 48
Blackpool	14 57	Jersey	16 51
Edwards	14 57		

0.03 in. Sun: 24 hr to 8 pm, 5.6 hrs.



Sun rises:
8.42 am

Sun sets:
4.47 pm.

NOON TODAY

Information supplied by: Met Office

MARKETS	THE POUND
FT 30 Share 1499.4 (-9.9)	US dollar 1.7520 (-0.0100)
FT-SE 100 1848.4 (-10.9)	W. German mark 3.1281 (-0.0055)
USM (Datastream) 162.08 (-0.52)	Trade-weighted 78.0 (-0.4)

Executive Editor
David Brewerton

Shearson set to shed jobs

Shearson Lehman Hutton Holdings, the New York investment bank, is expected to cut its workforce by 1,000 in the next few months as part of a company-wide review because of continuing slow business in securities. A senior official confirmed that redundancies would result.

These are likely to come in the equities section which has been hit by low levels of stock market turnover. Shearson has already shed hundreds of jobs over the last eighteen months because of slow markets and its merger with Hutton, another US investment bank.

Bell change

Robert Holmes & Court has resigned as chairman and director of The Bell Group and its subsidiaries. Bell is now controlled by Bond Corp Holdings which holds about 70 per cent of its capital.

Lucas lift

Lucas Industries, the aerospace, industrial and automotive components group, had pre-tax profits up from £14.5 million to £146.3 million in the year to end-July on sales 8 per cent higher at £1.97 billion. A final dividend of 15p was recommended making a total of 21p for the year. *Times, page 30*

STOCK MARKETS

New York	Dow Jones	2181.19 (-2.31)
Tel Aviv	Nikkei Average	27281.54 (-57.08)
London	FT 30 Share	1499.4 (-9.9)
Frankfurt	DAX	2562.46 (-19.23)
Amsterdam	AEX	281.2 (-0.2)
Sydney	ASX	1587.1 (-7.1)
Stockholm	OMXC20	1805.5 (-11.3)
Oslo	BHELSE	5338.8 (+6.4)
Copenhagen	OMXC20	498.0 (-4.0)
Paris	CAC	3529.1 (-10.9)
Brussels	BRUXSEL	3529.1 (-10.9)
Madrid	IBEX	3529.1 (-10.9)
Lisbon	BVLX	3529.1 (-10.9)
Porto	BVLX	3529.1 (-10.9)
Madrid	IBEX	3529.1 (-10.9)
Lisbon	BVLX	3529.1 (-10.9)
Porto	BVLX	3529.1 (-10.9)

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

RISKS:	Conder Group	3529.1 (+6.4)
	Autocore	3145.0 (+1.0)
	Suter	242.0 (+1.0)
	Transcontinental	215.0 (+1.0)
	Wagon Ind	381.0 (+1.0)
	Maybank	31.0 (+1.0)
	Mersey Docks	41.0 (+1.0)
	Redfern	532.0 (+1.0)
	Watts Blake	33.0 (+1.0)
	Leisure Inv	10.0 (+1.0)
	Stanley Leisure	25.0 (+1.0)
	Graham House	45.0 (+1.0)
	Ranger	317.0 (+1.0)
FALLS:	Enterprise	578.0 (-10.9)
	Therco	3529.1 (-10.9)
	London	3529.1 (-10.9)
	Pearson	715.0 (-1.0)
	Land Securities	57.0 (-1.0)
	EDF	457.0 (-1.0)
	British Aerospace	489.0 (-1.0)
Closing prices		2400

INTEREST RATES

London Bank Base	12%
3-month interbank	12 1/2-12 3/4%
3-month eligible bills	11 1/2-11 3/4%
buying rate	
US Prime Rate	10%
Federal Funds	8 1/4%
3-month Treasury	7 1/2-7 3/4%
30-year bonds	10 1/4-10 1/2%

CURRENCIES

London	New York
\$: £1.7520	\$: £1.7520
DM: £3.1281	DM: £3.1281
SwF: £2.6543	SwF: £2.6543
FF: £1.6361	FF: £1.6361
Yen: £2.235	Yen: £2.235
Index: 78.0	Index: 78.0
ECU: £0.661678	ECU: £0.661678

GOLD

London	Gold
AM \$498.30 pm \$495.50	
close \$495.50-496.10 (231.25)	
231.75	
New York	Gold
Comex \$495.70-496.20	

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Dec)	pm \$12.35 (\$13.42)
Denotes latest trading price	

STOCK WATCH

0898 141 141

Market news on Stock-watch yesterday included:

Suter (02709) gained 28p.

Metal Closures (01894), where Suter has a stake, perked up 9p.

Greenall Whitley A shares (02944) rose 13p after weekend comment, but profit-taking took 13p off MacCarthy (02578) and the office equipment sector saw JW Wassall (08595) tumble 11p on acquisition reports.

Recent additions include Edinburgh Hibernian 03475.

Calls charged 5p for 8 seconds peak, 12 seconds off peak inc. VAT.

KKR in world record \$21bn Nabisco offer

From Bailey Morris, Washington

Kohlberg Kravis Roberts, the Wall Street leveraged buyout firm, yesterday offered \$90 a share, or more than \$21 billion (£12 billion), for RJR Nabisco Inc., in a deal that would result in the largest corporate takeover in history.

At the same time, Kraft Inc. as expected, rejected an inadequate \$11.5 billion takeover offer from Philip Morris in favour of a corporate restructuring valued at \$14 billion.

There was widespread speculation that one or more British companies might join the bidding for all or part of both Nabisco and Kraft, both of which are now considered to be "in play".

The fast and furious pace of takeovers in the US food industry, including a \$11.23 billion hostile bid for Pillsbury from Grand Metropolitan, has galvanized share prices and generated huge fees to lawyers and investment advisers.

Pillsbury, for example, has retained five investment houses to mount its costly defence against GrandMet. Kleinwort Benson, its British adviser, would receive \$300,000 to begin with, and up to \$500,000 in additional payments, depending on the outcome.

Specialists in the buyout business

From Our Correspondent, Washington

Kohlberg Kravis Roberts is a private investment banking company founded in 1976 for the purpose of funding and executing management buyouts of companies.

Considered one of the best "deal makers" on Wall Street, it executed the biggest leveraged buyout in US history in 1986 when it took the Beatrice Cos. private for \$6.1 billion (£3.4 billion). This year alone, the firm has raised an equity pool of \$5.6 billion for leveraged buyouts.

The original principals in the firm, which has offices in New York and San Francisco, were all pioneers in the field and had been engaged in

buyouts since 1965. The firm was founded by Mr Jerome Kohlberg, who remains a limited partner, and Mr Henry Kravis and Mr George Roberts who remain active.

KKR has never been involved in a hostile takeover and made clear that its offer for RJR Nabisco was not hostile.

Since its founding, the investment firm has been involved in the acquisitions of 35 companies with an aggregate value of more than \$38 billion. KKR is leading the group which is attempting to buy Macmillan, the publishing firm, against competition from Mr Robert Maxwell.

There was speculation over the weekend that KKR or some other company would enter the bidding for Nabisco after the management group said it would negotiate a buyout with the financial backing of Shearson Lehman Brothers to ward off a hostile bid. Nabisco had no comment on the KKR offer yesterday.

In disclosing the planned offer, Mr Johnson said the management group would have to assume about \$5 billion in existing Nabisco debt, bringing its total debt to more than \$15 billion. To reduce this, he said the group would sell a number of food lines.

Analysts said the question was whether Mr Johnson's group, which has not yet made a formal offer, would raise the stakes or work with KKR on a possible joint bid. The third

option — a white knight — was also a possibility but that was considered the least favoured choice of the Nabisco board.

KKR, which was said to have approached the Nabisco management group earlier to negotiate a joint buyout, made clear that its offer was not hostile and was contingent on the board's approval. It said it would begin its tender offer this week and would include \$7 per cent cash and securities valued at \$90 a share.

Analysts said the Nabisco management group declined KKR's initial offer and decided to pursue its own bid because it believed the original offer was too low. Food industry specialists said KKR was attracted to Nabisco because of the way it was set up in separate operating companies, including its Del Monte and Nabisco food divisions, which could be sold off easily.

Ironically, KKR had been tipped as a possible bidder for Kraft, which has rejected the Philip Morris offer in favour of a recapitalization plan.

The recapitalization plan, which would give shareholders \$84 a share cash and \$14 in "junk bonds," was considered a bold move that left the door open for a white knight or other offer.

It was approved at a Sunday meeting of directors after Philip Morris apparently failed to make a higher offer.

However, Kraft acknowledged that the recapitalization would saddle it with a huge \$12.4 billion debt and require the sale of profitable subsidiaries.

Mr John Richmond, Kraft's chairman, said the plan "would require Herculean efforts by our employees to make the restructured company a success." There was no response from Philip Morris to the proposal.

Mr Richmond said Kraft would present the huge new dividend programme to its shareholders at a meeting soon. He said the group would proceed as if this were the only offer under consideration.

But he very clearly held the door open to another offer. "We are not foreclosing negotiations and if they (Philip Morris) were to offer a price that reflects the full value of the company, we would negotiate with them."



£35m Surrey Quays open for trade

Sir Hector Laing (left) of United Biscuits, with Mr Ian MacLaurin of Tesco, and Sir Terence Conran, of Storehouse, outside Surrey Quays, the London Docklands shopping development which opens today. The Rotherhithe site,

which has cost £35 million, houses a Tesco superstore, a B&S, and a food court leased by UB Restaurants. There are 34 other shops including Boots and Top Shop. The 280,000 sq ft development, is designed around a nautical theme, and

has a 10 ft high bronze dolphin sculpture in its centre. With parking for 1,500 cars, Tesco is running a free bus service on weekdays, except Monday, from the Elephant and Castle and New Cross. (Photograph: Julian Herbert)

Sterling support by Bank

By Rodney Lord
Economics Editor

Concern in the markets about the monthly trade figures, due on Thursday, increased yesterday, and the pound was supported by the Bank of England after it came under heavy pressure.

After slipping to DM3.11 in Far Eastern foreign exchange markets sterling recovered as the Bank of England intervened and closed in London about DM3.1291, down 0.55 pence from Friday's close. It was also a cent lower against the dollar at \$1.7520 leaving the effective rate index down 0.4 at 76.

The City consensus of forecasts on the figures has become more pessimistic as analysts worry about the effect of the postal strike on the recording of exports. But the Department of Trade and Industry believes the effect will have been negligible.

Tomorrow's quarterly survey by the Confederation of British Industry will be scanned for signs that the economy is slowing down and inflationary pressures abating.

Money market rates rose with the three-month interbank rate up 1/4 at 12 1/2 per cent. But the consensus view is that base rates are unlikely to rise from their present level unless pressure on sterling mounts, but they may not come down until the Budget.

Small investors see little of Rascal

By Martin Waller

The man in the street has — as expected — been largely excluded from the flotation of Rascal Telecom, the Vodafone operator, whose public offer closed around seven times oversubscribed.

The offer to existing shareholders was also in high demand, with applications for 115.5 million shares, or 77 per cent of those entitled to apply pro rata to current holdings. Further applications for extra

shares from shareholders, both in this country and overseas, scooped up another 15 million.

The British public will only see 13.5 million of the 200.8 million shares being floated, which represent slightly more than 20 per cent of the enlarged group. Another 60 million shares will go abroad. Dealings in the shares start tomorrow.

The shares were priced at 170p each, valuing the group

at £1.7 billion, but the over-subscription suggests that the shares will start trading at a useful premium.

Only those members of the public applying for 200 shares, the minimum application, will receive their full quota. Applications for larger amounts will be dealt with on a sliding scale.

Those who have applied for 200,000 or more shares will receive just 5 per cent of their original application.

IF YOU VALUE YOUR FINANCIAL INDEPENDENCE, YOU'LL VALUE OURS.

Your business is advancing in a healthy way. But growth also brings its own problems. Especially those of cash flow.

Where do you find the extra cash to finance your success without surrendering some (or all) of your independence? Factoring would provide an ideal solution. But wouldn't that increase your commitment to your own or another of the high street banks?

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Lonrho demands immediate publication of Harrods investigation

Rowland fires salvo on report delay

By Colin Narborough

Lonrho, the international conglomerate headed by Mr Roland "Tiny" Rowland, has renewed its demand for publication by the Government of the Department of Trade and Industry report into the capture of the House of Fraser stores group and its flagship Harrods by the Egyptian Al-Fayed brothers.

Lonrho, which is now a possible takeover target for the Australian brewing magnate Mr Alan Bond who holds 14.9 per cent, had long wanted to take control of the House of Fraser and ever since there has been a bitter war of words between the Al-Fayeds and Mr Rowland.

If the word from Whitehall yesterday proves correct, the long-awaited report may soon be made public. It is expected that legal actions may follow, but these are understood to be less than dramatic. The report was put in the hands of the Serious Fraud Office since last month —

a move which has delayed publication and provoked Mr Rowland's ire.

A fresh salvo fired by Lonrho in London yesterday demanded that Lord Young of Gifford, the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, should "immediately respect" his decision to publish the DTI inspectors' report on the 1985 stores group takeover.

Mr Rowland exchanged fire with Lord Young earlier this month over his decision to delay publication of the report until the Serious Fraud Office had studied it. The Lonrho chief was given a strong warning to mind his own business.

This time Mr Rowland was responding to a newspaper article which said the report censured him and the Al-Fayeds. The investigators are also said to be highly critical of the role of Kleinwort Benson, the merchant bank which was the adviser to the Al-Fayeds during the

£615 million bid battle for the House of Fraser.

The bank declined to comment on the report which is believed to allege that it failed properly to check the Al-Fayeds' finances.

Lonrho said that it had been informed that the inspectors report contains no criticism of the company, its executives or subsidiaries.

But, given the "informed leaks" now surfacing, which suggest that journalists have had access to report, Lord Young had to publish it "warts and all," said Mr Paul Spicer, a Lonrho director. "The SFO business is a farce that could go on for ever," he said.

A DTI spokesman was reluctant to comment about the matter, saying that the department could neither do nor say anything until the Serious Fraud Office had completed its investigations, a legal position Mr Rowland has challenged.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Growth predicted as Mowat rises to £1.6m

Mowat Group, the Glasgow property group which joined the USM in December, raised pre-tax profits to £1.6 million from £1.78 million, on turnover up fourfold to £2.12 million, in the six months to end-September. But the shares fell to 48p from 54p after profit-taking. The interim dividend is 0.5p a share.

Mowat is acquiring sites for 350 developments in north-west England. Mr Brian Dunlop, chairman and chief executive, said he expected substantial growth over the next three years, as the company had units worth more than £25 million under construction "with others in the pipeline." Earnings per share rose to 2.58p, up from 0.31p.

Joseph Webb Fourth deal bid talks for engineer

Joseph Webb, the West Midlands holiday, leisure and property group, is hoping to reach an agreement this week in talks that could lead to a takeover but has declined to name the company involved. Since 1985 pre-tax profits at Webb increased from £230,000 to £1.02 million. Webb shares rose 9p to 66p.

GW Thornton, the precision engineering firm, is paying £200,000 for Pertherest, a specialist computer services company. The deal is Thornton's fourth acquisition since coming to the USM last year. Pertherest achieved pre-tax profits of £97,106 on turnover of £1.7 million last year. Net assets were £173,263.

Casket acquisition

Casket, the clothing manufacturer and distributor, has made its first overseas acquisition with the purchase of Blanc Des Prés, a privately-owned, Paris-based distributor of household textiles to leading French stores, for an undisclosed sum.

Mr Vy Menon, chief executive, said: "We are thinking in terms of 1992. We regard this acquisition as an early move in the run-up to the internal market." Blanc Des Prés is particularly known for its quality duvets and duvet covers and pillow cases, which it sells under such prestigious brand names as Peco Rabanne and Optima. Last year, the company achieved a turnover of about £5 million. Mr Menon added that, after the acquisition, Blanc Des Prés may widen its product range to include textiles.

Heineken in China project Lopex buys Irish agency

Heineken of the Netherlands has signed a contract with the China Tea group of Thailand and two Chinese firms, Yimin Brewery and Shanghai International Enterprise, to set up a brewery in Shanghai. The partners will invest \$30 million (£17 million) in the brewery, Shanghai Milla Brew Co, the biggest beer joint venture in China.

Lopex, the acquisitive advertising and marketing agency, is expanding into Ireland through the acquisition of Dublin-based Keny's Advertising, Ireland's oldest advertising agency, for an undisclosed sum. Keny's will be merged with Arks Advertising, part of Lopex since 1981, to form Arks Alliance.

£15m Cresta purchase

Cresta Holdings, the Isle of Man financial services, property developer and motor dealer, is buying Peregrine International, a privately-owned property firm, for £15.1 million. Peregrine owns residential, office and retail properties on the Isle of Man, in Northern England and Scotland. Cresta also owns some leisure properties in the Canary Islands, worth about £2.5 million, which it is likely to sell.

Cresta and Peregrine, which is also an Isle of Man company, have close working ties including a joint venture shopping centre project in the north of the Isle of Man. Of the deal, subject to an independent valuation of the properties of at least £11 million, the company says that Peregrine offers the assets Cresta needs.

Office sale nets £55m

Priest Marans Holdings, the property investment company, is to sell Farnham House, formerly the Automobile Association office in London's Leicester Square to an unnamed Dutch company for £55 million. The British company bought the head lease in June 1987 for £19 million and the freehold in May 1988 for £14.3 million, when the building was valued at £50 million. As a result of the deal Priest Marans' net borrowings will fall by £26 million and net cash will increase by £28 million.

Lucas fails to light up City interest

Lucas is shining its lights through a fog, so far as the City is concerned. The rating remains paltry, despite strongly recovering earnings, and is arguably only at its present heights of eight times prospective earnings because of recurrent bid speculation.

Yet Lucas has come a long way since the dark days of 1983. It has undergone an extensive restructuring of its traditional businesses, namely automobiles, while increasing its commitment to complementary operations, such as aerospace and industrial.

But this process is still not complete and the newer business segments, particularly aerospace, now have their own problems. News is expected within the next few weeks about the group's French associate, which lost the company £7 million last year. A severe restructuring of Lucas' aerospace interests in that market is necessary, and may involve closures and disposals.

Thus, for investors with long memories, the continued stream of exceptional and extraordinary charges merely rubs salt in their wounds. Other factors undermining the quality of earnings at the new Lucas are the

Housebuilding

The City has lost faith in private housebuilders even though virtually all of them are producing record results

Rover to create 850 jobs

By Colin Narbrough

The Rover Group, nowadays British Aerospace's car-making subsidiary, plans to hire 850 extra workers, mainly at its Longbridge plant, to meet the increased demand for most of its models.

The announcement coincided with news yesterday from Tokyo that Rover will next year produce 10,000 more Concorde cars for Honda than had been expected.

The four-door versions, which will bring Rover's output of Concorde to 40,000, will be aimed at the Continental European market.

The boost in the workforce comes after a £540 million agreement, which Rover signed last week with the car rental group, Avis Europe, to supply 60,000 cars over three years.

From January, BAE's Austin Rover division will increase its weekly production of cars by 10 per cent to 11,000 units.

About 600 of the new jobs will be on Metro and Rover 200 production at Longbridge, while 250 workers will make Montego and Maestro at the Cowley works.

The expansion will not, however, mean any reprieve for parts of the company scheduled for closure under its restructuring programme.

King courts Japanese investment for Ulster

From Joe Joseph, Tokyo



King: a matter of perception

Mr Tom King, the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, is promoting the virtues of the province during a visit to Japan, in an effort to attract investment.

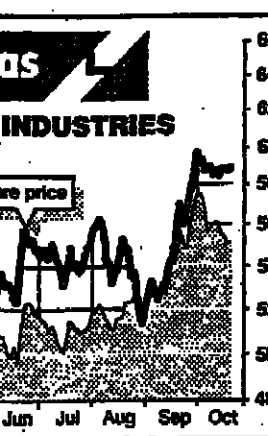
Japanese companies want to strengthen their presence in Europe ahead of 1992, when they fear that the European Community's single market could leave them out in the cold.

Mr King, hoping to capitalize on the fact that Japanese executives tend to find Britain an attractive European base for both corporate and social reasons, has come to Tokyo to persuade them to think twice before dismissing Northern Ireland as a blighted backwater in turmoil.

"We do have a problem of perception. Television does tend to portray the violence of another country," he told British journalists in Tokyo.

"I am very keen to encourage inward investment and I am keen to encourage inward Japanese investment because it is low at the moment. Northern Ireland is a small place. There are only one and a half million people. It's not going to become an offshore Japan."

Japan, which accounts for



LUCAS INDUSTRIES

Share price

Price relative to FTA all share index

Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct

Source: Dataquest

and look set to continue to do so for quite some time.

Although it is the market's function to discount bad news in good time, the pessimism surrounding the sector seems largely overdue.

Housebuilders' strong performance over the last few years made many investors turn prematurely bearish. The upward trend in interest rates has fuelled their disquiet.

However, housebuilders are not downhearted. They are ready to admit changing economic circumstances have taken some heat out of the market but this has not been

unwelcome - soaring house prices are accompanied by

rising land prices, scarce materials and overpriced labour.

The picture painted by Mr Alan Cherry, president of the Housebuilders' Federation and chairman of Countryside Properties, at yesterday's forum at the offices of Kleinwort Greaveson, the stockbroker, was not gloomy.

He reminded his audience of the secure economic background. Both the management of housing companies and the product were better now than in 1973, he asserted. Mortgage availability and underlying demand were not a problem nor were gearing levels.

A period of more modest house price rises seemed

likely, however, with volume taking priority over margins. The outlook one year ahead was good.

Yet the sector has suffered - Persimmon, well represented in the regions and experiencing record levels of reservations, is selling on a prospective p/e of 5.1 times, despite projected earnings growth of over 25 per cent. And even Wilson Connolly, the most stable of housebuilders is only selling on a prospective p/e of 7.8 times while increasing earnings by a third.

The restructuring of the British metals division should be over by the second half. The travails of the New Zealand economy are beyond the company's control, but the reorganization of McKechnie Pacific gives it a quoted investment there to exploit the growth of the Pacific Rini economies, and meanwhile it benefits from this year's cut in New Zealand corporation tax from 48 to 25 per cent.

But McKechnie has never lacked for admirers - in 1986 it fought off two takeover bids, from Evered and Williams Holdings. Much of the good news is already discounted in the share price. Profits of £42.5 million this year would give earnings per share of 33p and a price earnings multiple of 9.7 at yesterday's 321p share price, down 8p.

McKechnie

McKechnie could be an object lesson in how to turn an unfashionable metal-basher, with hefty South African interests to boot, into a go-ahead conglomerate focused on high-growth areas such as plastics and consumer goods.

This diversification saw its reward when pre-tax profits rose by 23 per cent to £34.04 million in the year to end-July. Plastic, consumer and specialist products all saw profits growth of between 42 and 56 per cent. However, the metals business let the side down, with earnings down 33 per cent after expensive

restructuring and a three-week strike at the start of this year.

McKechnie can justify claim to be getting it right, after spending £50 million on expansion last year. New management has been brought in to oversee expansion, and a growing US operation, shown by this summer's purchase of McCourtney Plastics just after the financial year-end, will lessen its dependence on the British economy.

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The test craft will undergo intensive instrumented test flying to evaluate the full capability of the system, which will be upgraded to include an auto-pilot in the next generation of airships that the company will produce.

"Fly-by-light" control will be fitted to the giant operational development model airship which Airship Industries is developing for the US Navy.

In the speech he prepared for the annual meeting, Mr Bond pledged "enthusiastic support" for Airship Industries after the significant progress it had made in the past 18 months.

He said the company was in "good shape" to continue as a powerful competitor in the lighter-than-air industry and capitalize on its substantial investment.

The "Fly-by-light" control system, which could also be used on fixed-wing aircraft and helicopters, is highly resis-

tant to electro-magnetic interference and lightning strikes which can knock out conventional "fly-by-wire" controls. It also reduces the fire hazard which electrical systems can present. A digital computer incorporated in the system also greatly reduces the large amount of work that the pilot must carry out on an aircraft as large and as flexible as an airship.

Mr Dave Burns, the company's chief test pilot, flew the Skyship 600 craft on a one-hour flight using the new fibre-optic control system developed by GEC Avionics, based in Rochester, Kent.

Mr Roger Munk, chief designer and technical director, who was on the flight, said everything went exactly as planned. "The airship handled superbly and its controllability has been transformed."

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Smith & Nephew in \$19m purchase

Smith & Nephew, the Elastoplast and Nivea health care group, has paid \$19.6 million (£11.2 million) for United Medical, a division of Pfizer of the US.

United Medical of Florida

sells to the same customers as Smith & Nephew's existing medical division in the US. Sales in 1987 were \$17.4 million and pre-tax profits \$1.9 million. In addition the British group will repay \$3.4

million of debt on acquisition. Smith & Nephew has sold two subsidiaries - its St Louis equipment division for \$14.7 million and its Toronto plastics division for Can\$5.3 million (£2.52 million).

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TOTAL COMPAGNIE FRANÇAISE DES PÉTROLES

Financial position for first half 1988

On 19 October 1988, the Board of Directors of TOTAL Compagnie Française des Pétroles reviewed the financial results of both the consolidated Group and its parent company for the half year ending 30 June 1988.

1 - CONSOLIDATED ACCOUNTS

Turnover 40,027 44,452
Funds generated from operations 2,536 3,788
Stockholding movements - 330 860
Funds generated from operations (including stockholding movements) 3,026 2,928
Net income (Group share) 237 1,111

1 Following the introduction by the Authorities of new regulations concerning consolidated accounts several changes in accounting policies were put into effect in 1988.

The results for first half 1987 were thus recalculated for purposes of comparison (Group share of net income for first half 1987, as published last year, was F 1,032 million).

2 Turnover was lower as a result of the fall in crude prices and the disposal of the Group's refining-marketing activities in Italy. The main cause of the reduction in funds generated from operations was the reversal of stockholding movements which showed a loss of F 390 million, as opposed to a gain of F 860 million for first half 1987, at a time when prices were falling.

Excluding stockholding movements, the Group's consolidated funds from operations showed a rise of some one hundred million francs over the six-month period.

Upstream, the improved results of the oil production subsidiaries were more than offset by the effects of the fall in oil prices. The most significant contribution to these results was the first six months of full production from Alwyn North.

The downstream sector experienced two sharply contrasting periods in succession during first half of 1988. The early months saw very poor refining margins. In the second quarter, however, these recovered strongly. Against this background, the Group's results showed a clear decline in France and the United States but a profit elsewhere.

The chemicals sector, particularly HUTCHINSON, continued to realize the benefits of recent restructuring and of a favourable economic climate. Results in the mining sector were negative owing to depressed coal and uranium prices.

Gross capital expenditure amounted to F 9,104 million, of which two thirds went to the upstream sector. This was mainly due to the acquisition of the U.S. corporation, GSA OIL AND GAS.

2 - PARENT COMPANY

The Board of Directors reviewed the accounts of the parent company TOTAL COMPAGNIE FRANÇAISE DES PÉTROLES for first half 1988. TOTAL CFP parent company's profit amounted to F 465 million against F 603 million for first half 1987 and F 1,362 million for 1987 as a whole.

This figure includes F 691 million of dividends received out of a total of F 1,423 million to be received in 1988. In 30 June 1987 dividends received had been F 866 million out of an annual total of F 1,753 million.

Provisions for depreciation and for specific-sector risks amounted to F 211 million. No provisions were made for first half losses incurred by CRD TOTAL FRANCE. In fact the transfer of TOTAL Chemie to TOTAL CFP will produce a capital gain which should lead to a more or less break-even point for CRD TOTAL FRANCE in 1988.

LONDON TRADED OPTIONS

Series	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
Alloy Steel	420	54	78	92	1	8	13						
Alloy Steel	460	24	46	54	1	19	37						
Alloy Steel	500	102	112	120	1	4	12						
Alloy Steel	540	61	67	85	2	18	35						
Alloy Steel	580	10	35	55	12	40	48						
Alloy Steel	620	14	20	28	1	1	1						
Alloy Steel	660	7	14	20	1	1	1						
Alloy Steel	700	5	12	18	1	1	1						
Alloy Steel	740	2	8	12	1	1	1						
Alloy Steel	780	1	5	8	1	1	1						
Alloy Steel	820	1	4	6	1	1	1						
Alloy Steel	860	1	3	5	1	1	1						
Alloy Steel	900	1	2	4	1	1	1						
Alloy Steel	940	1	1	3	1	1	1						
Alloy Steel	980	1	1	2	1	1	1						
Alloy Steel	1020	1	1	1	1	1	1						
Alloy Steel	1060	1	1	1	1	1	1						
Alloy Steel	1100	1	1	1	1	1	1						
Alloy Steel	1140	1	1	1	1	1	1						
Alloy Steel	1180	1	1	1	1	1	1						
Alloy Steel	1220	1	1	1	1	1	1						
Alloy Steel	1260	1	1	1	1	1	1						
Alloy Steel	1300	1	1	1	1	1	1						
Alloy Steel	1340	1	1	1	1	1	1						
Alloy Steel	1380	1	1	1	1	1	1						
Alloy Steel	1420	1	1	1	1	1	1						
Alloy Steel	1460	1	1	1	1	1	1						
Alloy Steel	1500	1	1	1	1	1	1						
Alloy Steel	1540	1	1	1	1	1	1						
Alloy Steel	1580	1	1	1	1	1	1						
Alloy Steel	1620	1	1	1	1	1	1						
Alloy Steel	1660	1	1	1	1	1	1						
Alloy Steel	1700	1	1	1	1	1	1						
Alloy Steel	1740	1	1	1	1	1	1						
Alloy Steel	1780	1	1	1	1	1	1						
Alloy Steel	1820	1	1	1	1	1	1						
Alloy Steel	1860	1	1	1	1	1	1						
Alloy Steel	1900	1	1	1	1	1	1						
Alloy Steel	1940	1	1	1	1	1	1						
Alloy Steel	1980	1	1	1	1	1	1						
Alloy Steel	2020	1	1	1	1	1	1						
Alloy Steel	2060	1	1	1	1	1	1						
Alloy Steel	2100	1	1	1	1	1	1						
Alloy Steel	2140	1	1	1	1	1	1						
Alloy Steel	2180	1	1	1	1	1	1						
Alloy Steel	2220	1	1										

Cadbury offers £169m for rest of Australian offshoot

By Wolfgang Mitzman

The Australian market responded with little enthusiasm towards the £169-million bid by Cadbury Schweppes for the 30.3 per cent stake it does not already own in its Australian subsidiary, Cadbury Schweppes Australia Limited.

Shares in Cadbury Australia closed above the bid price, which in the absence of a counterbid reflects expectations that the British drinks and chocolate group may be forced into a higher offer.

The bid is one Cadbury share for two Cadbury Australia shares, which at Friday's close represents Aus\$4.11. There is a cash alternative of Aus\$3.90 and a combined offer.

But given the anticipated rights issue, Cadbury shares fell to 379p, effectively reducing the value of the bid to Aus\$4.04 per share, well below yesterday's Aus\$4.11 close.

A spokesman for the company said the planned acquisition had to be understood in the context of the South-east Asian market, which Cadbury regarded as the leading growth region for soft drinks and for chocolates.

"We want to use the expertise and management resources in our Australian company to develop the area," he said.

Analysts in London were puzzled at the acquisition plan. There are suspicions that the bid could have come in expectation of higher profits at the Australian arm, possibly because of last year's merger with Beatrice Australia, a soft drinks company. If the existing shareholders join in Cadbury's alleged enthusiasm, it is feared they may refuse the bid.

There was also speculation that Cadbury may restructure its Australian division after the deal to reflect its organisational structure in Britain, where chocolates and soft drinks are separate. The spokesman said that if the takeover succeeded, the Australian arm could be de-listed, provided Cadbury gained acceptance for 90 per cent of capital, and won the support of at least 75 per cent of shareholders.

In that case Cadbury Schweppes may apply for a full listing in Australia, which will depend on the success of the share element of the offer, the spokesman added. Cadbury is also planning a dividend selection plan to allow Australian investors to forego dividends and instead receive the same amount from an Australian registered trust, which is more tax-efficient.

IDG price slips 7p on requote

By Graham Searjeant
Financial Editor

Shares in Irish Distillers Group fell only 7p to 407p when they were requoted after Friday's High Court decision in Dublin, favouring the lower bid from Pernod-Ricard.

This is equivalent to Ir£480p, well ahead of Pernod's Ir£450p per share offer, though substantially below Grand Metropolitan's Ir£525p bid.

The market has evidently not given up on the possibility of the City Takeover Panel or the European Commission undoing the effect of the court decision.

The ruling gave Pernod 52 per cent of IDG by forcing FIF-Fytes — its biggest shareholder — to stick to a verbal agreement accepting Pernod's lower offer.

FIF and Irish Life, which was also bound by the ruling, owned almost 30 per cent.

The Panel has yet to rule whether pressure Pernod put on other smaller shareholders over the weekend of September 3 and 4 breached the general takeover principle, that shareholders should be given enough time and information to make up their minds.

If so, it could decide that other irrevocable acceptances of Pernod's offer were invalid.

TR fights bid with 17% rise in profits

Telephone Rentals unveiled a 17 per cent rise in first half pre-tax profit to £1.1 million as part of its campaign to resist a £284 million bid from Cable and Wireless, which it describes as "totally inadequate".

The half-year dividend is up from 3p to 3.5p per share. TR's defence document notes that the market price has been consistently higher than the 305p bid. The half-year results, left TR shares up a further 3p to 343p.

Mr Gus Moore, TR's managing director, said the benefits of £100 million of investment to reposition the group were now coming through. New rental business was up 40 per cent, against the first half of 1987, and September had been a record month. The first-half pre-tax profits were struck after a £700,000 loss at the group's Canadian subsidiary.



Be prepared: Jeffrey Bowman, group chairman, says it will provide trans-national services

PW links European services

By Richard Thomson, Banking Correspondent

Price Waterhouse, the accountant, has brought together its British and European operations in a single group as part of its preparations for 1992.

The firm has been unable fully to merge the operations because of legal restraints in Britain and several other European countries. The combined group of partnerships in 18 countries will, however, be controlled by one management committee of 19 directors.

The local partnerships will co-ordinate their policies with the overall policy decided by the management board. Price Waterhouse believes the move will give it a competitive edge in providing accountancy and management consultancy services to European companies and to outside companies operating in Europe.

Mr Jeffrey Bowman, chairman of the new board and senior partner of the British firm of PW, said that by combining its operations, Price Waterhouse could offer clients a wider range of services and resources.

"Our primary aim is to look after our multi-national customers, and we want to set ourselves up as a force offering trans-national services in Europe," he said.

PW's European partnerships are already linked, but the new arrangement will bring in the much larger UK operations. Of £346 million in fee income earned in the year to June 1988, £186 million was contributed by the UK branch.

Buckley's returns to black

By Lawrence Lever

Buckley's Brewery, the Welsh brewer formerly owned by Mr Peter Clowes and Mr Guy von Cramer, is consulting its advisers over a £2.3 million share dealing programme on which the company embarked during the reign of its former owners.

There are suggestions that the company's excursion into share dealing soon after Mr

Clowes and Mr von Cramer took over did not have the authority of the full Buckley's board. Overall, Buckley's lost £60,000 after finance charges. Buckley's announced a return to the black yesterday with half-year pre-tax profits of £246,000. Turnover was £12.1 million.

Last year's, Buckley's had interim profits of £556,000 before slipping to a loss of

£763,000 at end-December 1987.

There is no interim dividend. Buckley's future as an independent company is likely to be short-lived as Singer & Friedlander, the merchant bank, has claimed the 53 per cent stake in Buckley's once owned by Mr Clowes and Mr von Cramer and put it out to tender. The closing date for tenders is November 10.

Revitalized McKechnie tops £27m

By Martin Waller

McKechnie, the revitalized engineer which now takes in plastics and consumer goods, raised pre-tax profits from £27.62 million to £34.04 million in the year to end-July. Sixty per cent of the growth was organic.

Capital spending topped £50

million, of which £24 million was internal and the rest on acquisitions. Gearing was held at 35 per cent by strong operational cash flow.

Five years ago, all of McKechnie's business came from metals, but the proportion has dropped to 25 per cent, replaced by activities ranging from heart pace-

makers through feeding troughs to buoys for fish farming.

The year also saw sales crossing the £300 million barrier for the first time — to £306 million from £244 million.

A raised final dividend of 9.45p increases the total to 13.25p, from 11.5p. *Tempos, page 30*

Cornering the USM market

Ian Restall, the former AJ Bekhor broker, whose *USM Magazine* has cornered the market on the smaller companies sector, has bought the USM Index from WI Carr.

The index was set up last January by analyst Mark Piddon, who left Carr's in July, for pastures new at County NatWest WoodMac. On his departure, Restall offered to buy the index but, at that time, the broker said it was keen to stay in the sector. Two months later, however, it changed its mind. The index, which is in competition with DataStream and the Hoare Govett systems, is reckoned by the analysts to be the most broadly-based and reasonably priced service on that market.

Restall has rebased it from 100 to 1,000, so that movements are more easily detected and it becomes a daily publication, rather than a monthly. He is also planning to put out a weekly facts sheet, complete with details of the best and worst performing sectors, alongside the magazine and the telephone-tape service, which he offers to his £95-a-year subscribers. "It will now become the definitive index and we can easily add lots of new details on the computer," he told me yesterday. And as usual, Restall is hosting his USM anniversary thrash on November 10. But smokers be warned. The event is being held at the Barbican Health and Fitness Club this time, which means cigarettes are banned.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Fax in wonderland

British Telecom's promotion of the ubiquitous fax machine has moved more into the realms of *Alice in Wonderland*. Six months after installing a machine, a Belfast colleague received his first fax directory after making seven telephone calls last week. But his delight quickly turned to rage when he found his name listed not by his surname, as is conventional, but under his first name — the fate of countless other subscribers too. After

several more back-passing attempts by BT, he was eventually put in touch with Hutton & Rostrom, of Guildford, the BT sub-contractors charged with preparing the Fax Book. "We only follow British Telecom rules and they say that where a subscriber supplies his or her full name the Christian name dictates its placing in the directory. If you only provide an initial, you go in under your surname," said a spokesman.

Rugged mail

On rock faces, in underground caves and in canoes, the future top-management of the Post

Office may well have been chosen this summer from youngsters with hardly an O-level between them. In places as varied as the Derbyshire Peaks and Essex estuaries, they have been on personal development courses, so that their leadership qualities may be assessed. Courtesy of Personal Development Associates, it is, I am told, a Post Office and YTS "first".

● The Minorco-ConsGold takeover battle has clearly taken its toll of all the participants. Four weeks ago, as the bid broke, silver-haired Ronald Agnew, the ConsGold chairman, was forced to cancel a barber's appointment. He has only just managed to restate it. Even so, he then snatched the odd half-hour for all the wrong reasons. "BBC Radio wanted to interview me, so I had a quick trim for the cameras," he said.



"As a late entry it has everything — greed, tragedy, escapism, heart-break, mystery."

Office set taped

An American businesswoman's wheeze may soon cross the Atlantic. Laura Newman, who works from home in upstate New York, decided that noises from her study — the sounds of her quarrelling children or the television set — might deter potential clients.

So she made a tape of typical office background hubbub, including typewriters clattering and telephones ringing, to play when making business calls. The tape is marketed at \$15 a time, and it has been so successful that Newman has now developed another version, with the noises from a computerized office. But her device could prove to be her downfall: the tapes business is doing so well that she is now having to move to a real office.

Water Muzak

Meanwhile, stressed American executives are being offered a therapeutic tape of "natural" background noises by Muzak, the US company which is best known for supplying canned music for use in lifts and shopping malls. The tape apparently comprises a four-hour recording of birds chirping, leaves rustling and brooks babbling. A deer can also be heard scuffling about. It should at least be more relaxing and comforting than one of the company's other titles, *Sunset Inspirational*. "That is what we sell to funeral parlours," a spokesman explains.

Rosemary Unsworth

Oil price slips as Opec dithers

By David Young
Energy Correspondent

The price of oil continued to drift lower yesterday after the inconclusive committee meeting of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries in Madrid.

The oil producers' cartel tried to claim that it had made significant progress and Iraq moved to bolster such statements by saying it was prepared to accept a new quota agreement.

However, traders believe Opec is still in disarray. In Tokyo, North Sea crude dropped to \$12.85 in early trading compared with Friday's close of \$13.50, and later in London prices fell to \$12.40 against \$13.40.

Prices later moved up slightly to \$12.55 and there are expectations of further rises.

The possibility of Iraq again becoming a party to Opec's quota system was not resolved at the weekend, but this will be readdressed at a committee meeting in Vienna on November 27, four days before the next full ministerial meeting.

However, Abdul Al-Chalabi, the Iraqi oil Minister, said on his return to Baghdad that Iraq would accept a new price and production agreement if it were given a quota near its current daily output of 2.7 million barrels.

Iran would demand a far higher quota, but there are signs that the two countries may agree to bury their differences over oil quotas if the cartel could reach a new agreement which gives both a higher quota while showing the industrialized consuming nations that Opec is serious about bringing production under control.

At present, world demand for Opec oil is about 19.5 million barrels a day, according to the big oil companies, while Opec production is more than 21 million bpd.

There are signs that several Opec members now appreciate that unless a new agreement is reached at the November meeting, prices will fall even further. The heads of state of several Opec nations are expected to meet soon to review the situation.

£3m mine

A £3 million shaft-sinking programme by Cementation Mining of the Trafalgar House group started yesterday at Anglesey Mining's Parys Mountain, North Wales, base metals operation. Reserves include copper and gold.

COMMENT David Brewerton

Minorco's ambitions to become Majorico

Life goes on in the raft of companies which, through a series of minority shareholdings, are regarded as outposts of the Anglo American empire. Johnson Matthey, risen from the near dead to a market value of around £625 million in the space of three years — during which debt has been cut from a towering £485 million to virtually nothing — is about to take its first tentative steps towards growth by acquisition.

Chief executive Mr Eugene Anderson is not, however, allowing his Texas roots to lead him into the trap of thinking big: the purchase will be measured in tens of millions rather than hundreds. You do not let the boys learn the ropes on a half-billion of acquisition — not when you have seen how easily mistakes can be made.

But the change of pace at Johnson Matthey, from recovery mode to expansion by acquisition, raises a number of questions. It will be recalled that the near-collapse caused by the banking side gave Charter Consolidated the opportunity to lift its shareholding from 28 per cent to 38 per cent. Charter is, in turn, owned 36 per cent by Minorco, where 60 per cent of the capital is controlled by Anglo American and De Beers.

Such hierarchical, descending and interlocking shareholdings are part and parcel of the mining finance house: or, at least, they have been. However, Sir Michael Edwards, chief executive of Minorco, has made it clear he has no time for minority "passive" investments because, as he puts it, "we cannot get at the cash." Minorco has ambitions to become Majorico.

Whatever happens in the Consolidated Gold Fields takeover attempt, it is clear that the position of Charter is unlikely to be stable for long. Minorco will either strengthen its grip or let go.

And then what of the Johnson Matthey shareholding?

Johnson Matthey is anxious that it is not seen as an upstream arm of the mining empire which has its heart in Johannesburg. It deals with many mining companies outside the Anglo circle and regards Engelhard Corporation, where Minorco has a 30 per cent shareholding, as its major competitor. It would expect to win its contracts to refine and market platinum metals for Rustenburg on commercial criteria, even if the two were not cousins under the same umbrella.

But Johnson Matthey has not yet stretched its acquisition ambitions to the point where it would be advantageous to issue shares to pay for a major purchase, although the share price is riding along on the kind of heady rating which has tempted many a chief executive to pay with paper. If Charter, with or without a more active Minorco sitting at its elbow, is asked to stump up cash for the acquisition pot, that could provide the focus for Johnson Matthey to either leave the empire, or become a full member.

And that, presumably, is what Cookson Group, which sits on 6.3 per cent of the Johnson Matthey capital, is banking upon. It is perhaps relevant that Cookson has had no contact with Johnson Matthey since the original courtship call three months ago to inform "the chairman, Mr Neil Clarke (also chairman of Charter and a director of Anglo American itself and Minorco), that they had made a "strategic investment".

Cookson's Mr Ian Butler must have been listening to the Minorco line with close attention. Whether he will get his hoped for reward is another matter, but either way he is unlikely to be disappointed with his Johnson Matthey stake.

Conflict worthy of interest

The Great and the Good are spread more thinly in Edinburgh than down in the Smoke, so it is hardly surprising that a bid for Scottish & Newcastle Breweries, partly financed by its biggest bank, should throw up a host of conflicts of interest. There are more boardroom seats than there are distinguished bottoms to sit on them.

That does not excuse Angus Grossart, the wide-awake merchant banker who straddles the divide as S&N's Scottish adviser and a non-executive director of the Royal Bank of Scotland, which is putting up part of the cash to finance Elder IXL's takeover attempt. He has no choice but to resign one or other position, and the sooner the better.

But S&N should not be too worried about Peter Balfour, its former chairman and the Royal Bank's vice-chairman. Mr Balfour's tenure of the S&N chair was long — but not overly distinguished. It was

also a long time ago, and there is little he will know which would be of use to any predator. The Royal Bank itself will doubtless manage to forget how hard it played the Scots card when it was under attack from Standard Chartered. It subsequently merged with Williams & Glyn's, and now about half of Royal Bank's business comes from England and Wales. It is this part of its business which is growing fastest and is, in the long run, more valuable.

It is unlikely that the Royal Bank's executive merely tumbled into backing Elders, and overlooked the embarrassment it might cause its own board and the Scottish establishment. It is much more likely that, as with Midland's backing of Goodman Fielder Wattie's bid for Ranks Hovis McDougall, it was based on hard commercial reality and a chance to beef up margins with lucrative acquisition finance.

DIAMOND SERVICE

TEN JETS A DAY BETWEEN HEATHROW AND LIVERPOOL? IT HAS TO BE DIAMOND SERVICE.

From October 31st there is a new standard of service between Heathrow and Liverpool: Diamond Service, only from British Midland.

On board this means Business Class service for everyone, with superb food and drinks compliments of BM.

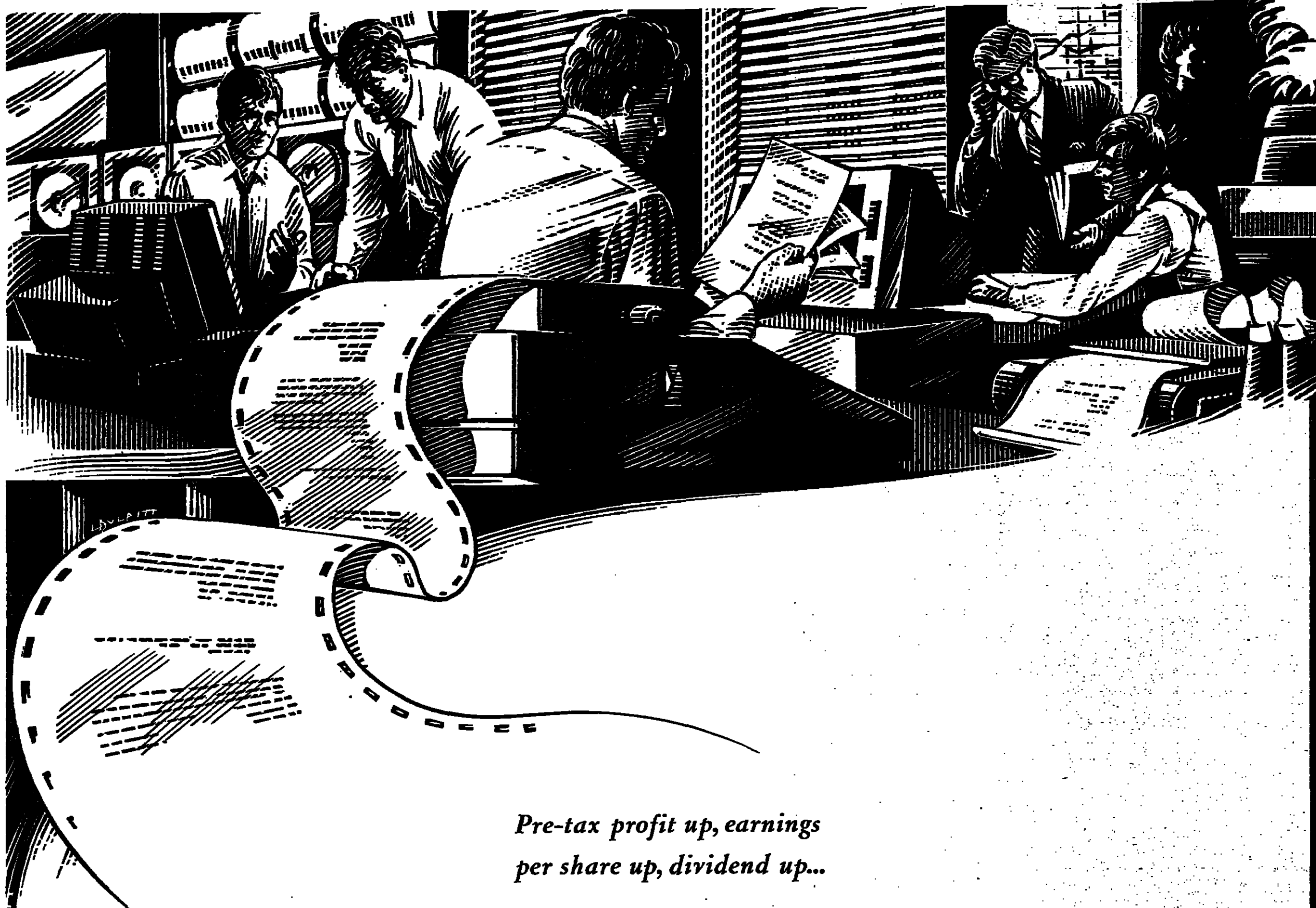
And attention to every detail starts before you even board. For instance, for your onwards BA flight you can choose your seat at Liverpool long before anyone else checks in at Heathrow.

Add to this our exclusive Diamond Service departure lounges and our unrivalled reputation for punctuality, and you will begin to see why BM has so frequently, and again this year, been voted Best Domestic Airline.

HEATHROW - LIVERPOOL • LIVERPOOL - HEATHROW			
08.30	09.20	07.05*	07.55
11.30	12.20	10.10	11.00
14.15	15.05	12.50	13.40
17.00	17.50	15.40	16.30
20.00	20.50	18.40	19.30

*Mondays dep. 06.45 arrive 07.25. Other times are Monday-Friday.

BRITISH MIDLAND



*Pre-tax profit up, earnings
per share up, dividend up...*

ALL SYSTEMS ARE GO.

Lucas Industries plc, the major international aerospace, automotive and industrial systems and components group, reports:

	Year to 31 July 88	Year to 31 July 87	up
Sales*	£1,972m	£1,820m	8%
Profit before tax	£146.3m	£114.5m	28%
Earnings per share	79.4p	65.3p	22%
Dividends per share	21.0p	15.7p	34%

*Including the group's share of related companies.

The fifth successive year of earnings growth.

Earnings per share double those of three years ago.

Further progress in bringing the three sectors into better balance.

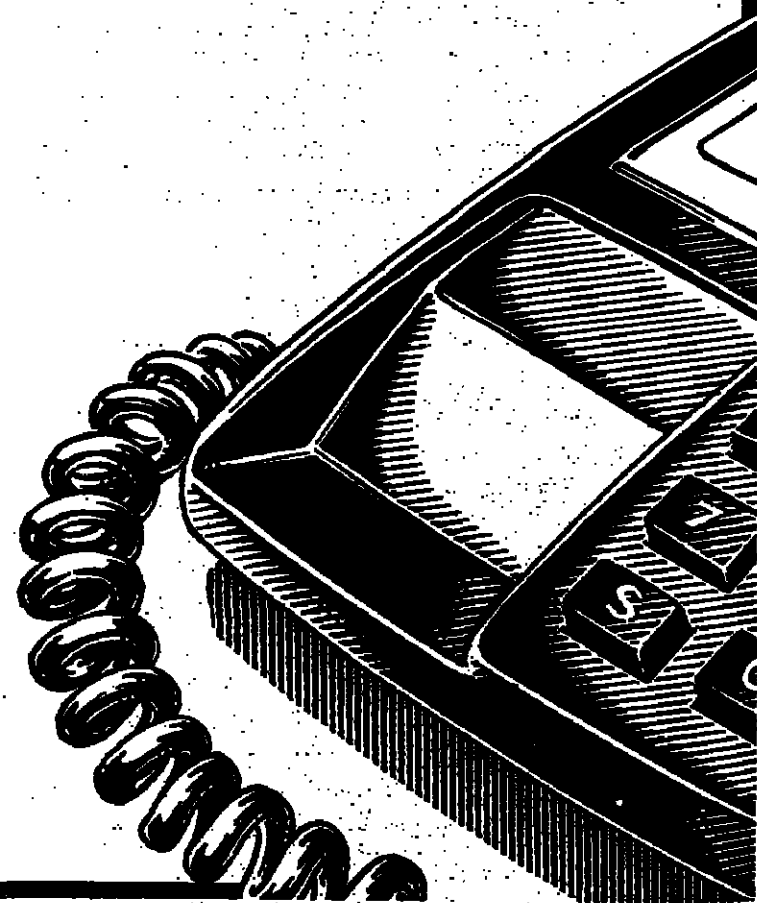
A strong base from which to make further strategic advances.

Lucas

Aerospace, Automotive, Industrial Systems and Components.

For a copy of the Annual Report please write to the Secretary,
Lucas Industries plc, Great King Street, Birmingham B19 2XF.

The contents of this advertisement, for which the Directors of Lucas Industries plc are solely responsible, have been approved for the purposes of Section 57 of the Financial Services Act 1986 by Ernst & Whinney, a firm authorised by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales to carry on investment business.



مكتبة الامارات

Scattered selling

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Scattered selling

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began October 17. Dealings end October 28. Contango day October 31. Settlement day November 7.
 §Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price earnings ratios are based on middle prices. (a) denotes Alpha Stocks (VOLUMES PAGE 33)

Portfolio PLUS Accumulator

From your Portfolio gold card check your daily dividend and add it to your gold card. Add them up to give you your overall total and check this against the daily or accumulator dividend figure. If it matches or beats this figure you have won outright or a share of the daily or accumulator prize money stated. If you win, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. Always keep your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

Weekly Dividend

Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £8,000 in Saturday's newspaper.

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Total

BRITISH FUNDS

High	Low	Stock	Price	Change	%	P/E
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

SHORTS (Under Five Years)

High	Low	Stock	Price	Change	%	P/E
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS

High	Low	Stock	Price	Change	%	P/E
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS

High	Low	Stock	Price	Change	%	P/E
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

UNDATED

High	Low	Stock	Price	Change	%	P/E
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

INDEX-LINKED

High	Low	Stock	Price	Change	%	P/E
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

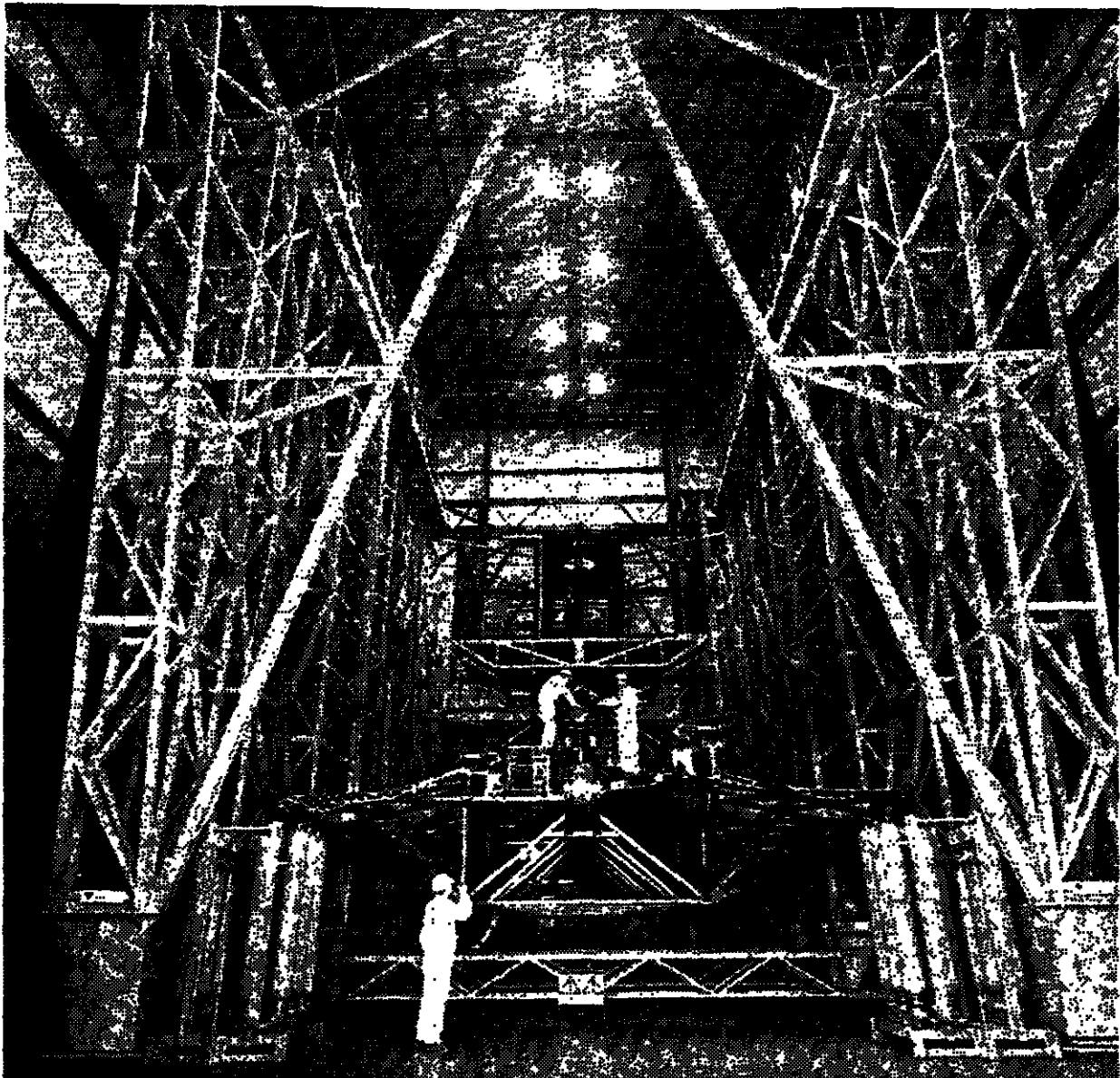
BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP

High	Low	Stock	Price	Change	%	P/E
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

1988	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
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1988	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
21	114	112	21	114	112	118	118
22	115	113	22	115	113	119	119
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201	294	292	201	294	292	298	298
202	295	293	202	295	293	299	299
203	296	294	203	296	294	300	300
204	297	295	204	297			

TECHNOLOGY



The Advanced Flight Simulator: a sophisticated "fairground ride" which will save millions in aircraft development work.

Jet ride to the future

By Robert Matthews

RAF test pilots will soon be able to take a ride in the jet fighter of the next century before the aircraft even leaves the drawing board.

At the Royal Aerospace Establishment in Bedford, engineers are testing what looks like an extremely sophisticated fairground ride which will help design the next generation of military aircraft.

Built at a cost of £2.5 million, the vast assembly of girders, hawsers and pulleys is the central part of the Advanced Flight Simulator (AFS) which the RAE believes will save Britain millions in its aircraft development work.

A change in aerodynamic thinking is sweeping away many of the traditional approaches to military aircraft design.

Previously known as intrinsic instability or agility, the central concept is the idea that aircraft no longer have to be aerodynamically stable.

Up until the 1970s, if some sudden change caused an aircraft to stray from normal flight, aerodynamic and gravitational forces would come into play so it

was automatically brought back under control.

As a result, pilots were rarely caught out by unexpected behaviour in their craft. However, the cost of this stability was a loss in manoeuvrability.

Then came "fly-by-wire": aircraft whose aerodynamic behaviour is continuously monitored and controlled by a series of computers. Designers found themselves freed of the need to build aircraft that could always be controlled by their pilots.

Intrinsically unstable aircraft could be built whose normal flight is controlled by computer, but which can also be tossed around like a paper dart to shake off enemy aircraft.

The European Fighter Aircraft (EFA) is currently being put together by Britain and a number of other countries to incorporate these ideas. The key question on the design of such aircraft is just how

many demands pilots can cope with while in flight.

Building and testing such aircraft to find the answers is extremely expensive. The RAE's simulator provides a much less expensive way of trying out cockpit layouts, electronic displays and other features of tomorrow's aircraft on pilots who are given all the sensations of flight.

The AFS can throw pilots upward 18 metres at 2g acceleration, then drop back weightless while being shot 8 metres sideways at 0.5 g. The cockpit itself can be rotated up to 60 degrees about three different axes. Sights and sounds typical of the aircraft can also be fed through. Helicopters, short and vertical take-off aircraft, as well as agile jets, can all be simulated.

The entire facility with its back-up computers is "unparalleled in Europe, and possibly the world", according to John Hall, military simulation group leader at RAE Bedford. He expects that industry, as well as Nato partners, will be queuing up to use it.

Squabble on Unix software standard

Battle lines hardened last week in a fight between the world's biggest computer companies over control of Unix, a base layer of software that enables different computers to communicate.

The fight over Unix is dissuading computer users, because programs that work with one version of Unix may not work with the other.

Eighteen companies — including giants such as Unisys and Japan's Fujitsu — said they support the version of Unix developed by AT&T which invented the software.

Their new alliance puts the companies at odds with another powerful group, the Open Software Foundation, that includes IBM, Digital Equipment and Hewlett-Packard.

Until recently there were hopes in the industry that the two sides could find a common ground that would lead to a single, unified version of Unix, something that would benefit computer makers and users as well. But the formation of the group siding with AT&T seems to worsen the outlook for a compromise.

"It does look somewhat that way, which I think is most unfortunate, because there is no reason for it. Why would anyone want to have two camps?" said Charles Exley, chairman of NCR, one of the companies siding with AT&T.

The Open Software Foundation was created earlier this year because of concerns that AT&T was manipulating Unix so it would be best suited to run on its own computers and those of its fast-growing Silicon Valley partner, Sun Microsystems.

But supporters of AT&T's version of Unix say it has taken steps to ensure that other companies and customers have a big say in the development of Unix.

AT&T has said it will not join the Open Software Foundation unless it uses AT&T's version of Unix as the core of a new operating system. But the foundation is sticking with plans to use IBM software as the core.

Among the other companies that have joined the new group are Amdahl, Control Data, Intel, Motorola, Italy's Olivetti, Prime Computer and Japan's Toshiba.

Financial companies in Britain and Europe are going through a period of radical change and increasingly need an appreciation of how new technology can help.

Better informed and wealthier customers no longer automatically go to banks for cheques or credit, or to a building society for a mortgage or an insurance company for a policy.

Those companies involved in banking and the sale of financial products are soon likely to see their business dominated by those capable of the greatest change — for example taking on board the networks and personal computers now common in most other industries — to help them in the battle to sell cross-related products.

Yet despite the capabilities of technology to help in such areas as the gathering of customer information to target services better and help serve customers quickly and more efficiently it is clear that financial institutions who deal face to face with customers are falling way behind the US where automation and high technology is being widely used to gain commercial advantage.

In the US, for example, immediately customers enter the average bank they have the choice of going to an open counter — without the banal scenes common in the UK — to transact normal deposit or withdrawal business or to a cash machine.

Alternatively they can go and seat themselves at one of several desks each with a sign on them such as "Mortgage officer" or "New account openings".

The area is usually raised one step up from the rest of the branch giving it the name "platform banking".

Most of these desks will

IBM 88, tomorrow until next Wednesday, Business Design Centre, Islington, London (0705 321212)
Expo China, October tomorrow until Monday, Beijing, (0727 33299)
Freelance Contractor Show, Friday and Saturday, Cornhill Rooms, London (0800 23223)
Information Technology Exchange Exhibition, November 1-3, Barbican,

PERSPECTIVE

On the right platform for electronic business



British banks are falling behind the United States in direct dealings
argues Paul Sugg

have personal computers connected to a local controller or directly to a bank's main computer. Using these, staff can put in customer details, other information can be instantly retrieved or product sales presentations made.

Platform banking branches wired into new technology mean customers can often have an instant response to requests for loans or policies which can sometimes also be arranged on the spot.

One US bank found that with platform automation its cross-selling of products went from 14% products per customer to 44%. And there are other reasons why banks, building societies and others should take heed. Research has shown that if a customer uses only one financial service from an organisation there is a significant chance they will change to another within five years.

Those using two services are half as likely to move and those with more very seldom take their business elsewhere.

But the success of platform automation is not just dependent on rebuilding and installing new technology — the financial company must also have both the infrastructure and culture to ensure the power it unleashes does not exceed the capability of the bank to respond.

In contrast, the recent experience of a colleague shows the different attitude from a British bank.

Based on a mailshot he applied for an overdraft facility, completed the form, returned it and then waited two months before he received a letter from his bank asking him to telephone for an appointment with his branch manager. Two weeks later the interview took place and the application was approved.

But what was of greater interest was that, having opened an account some 14 years previously with this bank, it was the first time anyone had asked him the value of his house, the size of his mortgage and who funded it — whether he had any pension or insurance policies.

Within five minutes it was established my colleague had conducted sizeable financial transactions with six different organisations within the previous five years. It was also evident that his bank could have provided products to cover all these needs.

Apart from the mailshot literature, his bank had tried to sell him nothing in 14 years.

If his bank had serviced his financial requirements through an automated platform system he would have been a happier customer and there is a good chance he would have bought more of their products and done so earlier.

The author is marketing director for the financial services division of Hoskyns Group — a computer services company.

EVENTS

London (01-891 5051)
Electronic Hard Copy, November 2-4, Amsterdam Marriott Hotel, Netherlands (01-879 0157)
Macuser Show, November 8-10, Business Design Centre, Islington, London (01-486 1951)
Comdex, November 14-18, Las Vegas, (0101 617 448-6600)

Computers in the City, November 15-17, Barbican, London (01-868 4488)
Image Processing, November 15-17, Kensington Exhibition Centre, London (01-868 4488)
Computer Recruitment Fair, December 2-3, Novotel, Hammersmith, London
Open Systems Computing, January 17-19, Kensington Exhibition Centre, London (04862 27661)

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TECHNOLOGY

Language worth £600 a day



Even the junior programmers get £100 a day, says Andrew Gardner

Working in computing can reap high rewards, particularly if you have experience in the areas with the highest shortages. Programmers and analysts skilled in fourth generation language (4GL) software are striking gold as companies compete for their expertise.

Firms are prepared to pay whatever it takes—even up to five times the going rate for traditional programmers—for those with database and 4GL skills as they can develop systems far quicker using the latest techniques.

For the first time, some of the best-paying jobs for analysts and programmers are specifying that applicants must have experience in one of the popular databases and 4GL languages in the market. But as the products are relatively new there is a huge shortage of staff with the knowledge.

"In London we pay £100 a day for junior contract programmers with only brief experience of 4GLs, but it can go up to £600 a day for senior consultants working at board level," said Adam Gardner of Computer People.

Such high-flyers are expected to understand the impact that relational databases and the 4GL technology will have on a company's computer needs. As businesses have embraced computers the demand for more applications from end users has driven system managers to despair as the backlog grows.

There is also the general skills shortage to contend with, opening the way for a new systems development methods that help programmers become more productive and cut the mounting list of unwritten application software.

Relational databases and the 4GL programmers tools for writ-

JOBSCENE

By Leslie Tilley

ing applications began to appear on the scene in the early 1980s and became known as the fourth generation of software languages.

Many firms tested these products before committing themselves to the new style of developing systems, but the last six months have seen a soaring increase in the number of companies using them.

"Requirements for staff with 4GL experience constituted roughly 15 per cent of our business in early 86 but is now about 35 per cent," said Mr Gardner. Yet there is no doubt that more business could be won if there was a greater pool of experienced staff available.

Computer People is looking for about 25 4GL contractors, particularly those with experience of the Oracle relational database.

The shortage has become a vicious circle. Firms are reluctant to train their permanent staff to use these products as they tend to leave once they have such lucrative skills.

"Because of the wide supply and demand gap most system staff with experience tend to go for consultancy and contract jobs because of the greater earnings," said Mr Gardner.

Even The Instruction Set which specialises in training and consultancy is looking for five to 10 system developers with the right experience. They describe relational databases as "the key growth area for the 1990s" and are prepared to pay up to £25,000 for permanent staff.

David Griffiths, managing director of The Instruction Set, explained that there has been a

"dramatic shift in the last six months" by firms towards these products. The training firm introduced 4GL services earlier this year and has found that the demand from clients has been exceptional.

He added that firms "are paying a premium" for 4GL staff and that is always the case when there is a shortage of skills. "It's going to get worse over the next few years—in six months to a year it will be a lot tighter," he added.

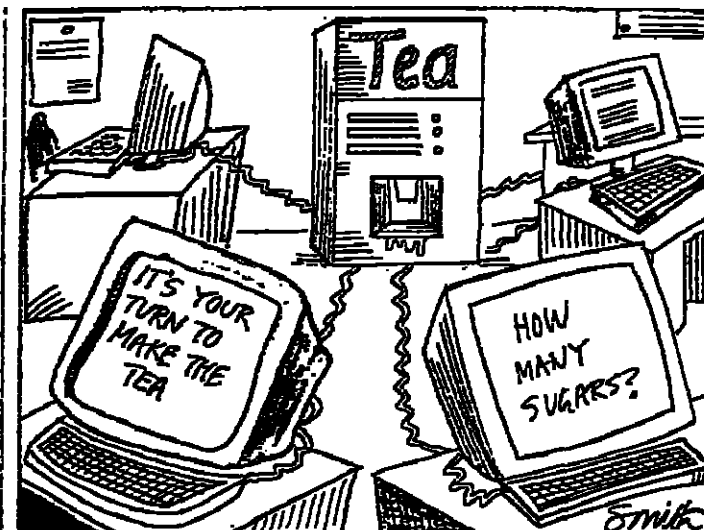
But there is bad news for staff thinking of paying for their own training. Both Mr Griffiths and Mr Gardner warned programmers of going on courses themselves. Employers generally don't pay much attention to consultants who have put themselves through a course—practical work experience is what counts.

Mr Gardner advises permanent staff looking for a bright future: "If possible get 4GL skills in-house while on a permanent job."

Programmers and analysts already contracting can also charge a lower rate if they can find a company prepared to take them on while they learn to use these products. Mr Gardner explained that occasionally they are able to place a team of an experienced project leader with three or four contractors who haven't used 4GLs before.

But he said: "They would have to charge a lower rate while they learn," and added: "We would be looking for a discount from the contractor of between 10 and 20 per cent for about six months."

Computer People has even introduced its own course in IBM's DB2 relational database in a bid to cope with client's requirements for this new product, but this service is only available to firms and not to individual contractors.



The office network moves a little closer

By Geof Wheelwright

IBM's biggest competitors—in both personal computers and networking—are having to set aside their differences with their major rival to produce networking systems that allow linkage to IBM equipment.

Two of the major stalwarts against making "cloning" of IBM's PC designs—Digital Equipment (DEC) and Apple—are about to integrate their networking systems with IBM's.

Today, Digital Equipment will announce new networking hardware and software to support IBM's Micro Channel Architecture design—along with Ethernet, VLSI-DOS, MS-NET, Netbios and OSI standards.

According to Paul Evans, Digital's group manager for networks marketing, the reason is simply that if it doesn't make the move someone else will get there first.

"The personal computer network is effectively a bubble waiting to burst. Over the last decade, UK companies have made huge investments in PCs," he said.

"They are now realizing that the next stage of investment is to integrate these systems, so that users can share data and resources across a network."

A survey by the market research firm IDC estimated that there were some 1.2 million unintegrated PCs in businesses across Britain at the end of last year.

Digital is also to sell new "file servers" which will provide mass storage and network handling for between eight and 30 personal computer users.

But Mr Evans denies that these moves have been forced on the company by IBM.

"At the personal computer end of the scale, we need to provide links to all the popular machines and IBM's PS/2 will clearly be a force over the next few years."

Apple's Macintosh II range was recently updated to provide easier reading of IBM discs, while it has also developed a networking system with Novell that allows any of Apple's newer machines to be connected into an existing network of IBM-compatible computers.

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TECHNOLOGY



Faster take-off: computerized cargo "paperwork" at Kai-Tak airport will speed up clearance

New network will speed cargo out of Hong Kong

Nine leading Hong Kong companies have united to start work on a country-wide computer network linking the busy British colony's freight carriers, banks and trading firms.

The group, named Tradelink Electronic Document Services, is headed by Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking, the colony's largest bank.

The use of Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) systems to cut or eliminate paperwork is spreading in countries such as Britain and the United States. The company claims that Hong Kong will lose vital trade unless it too develops paperless trading.

The rival Asian port of Singapore already plans an EDI network and there are fears that it will attract business away from Hong Kong.

Singapore's EDI network, called Tradenet, will begin operating in early 1989, while Tradelink is not expected to be in operation before 1990.

British customs authorities have warned foreign shippers that "When automated clearing facilities are available, we can not guarantee that we will be able to provide a satisfactory freight clearance service to those firms who do not adopt them".

The US customs has introduced its Automated Manifest System for electronic customs clearance, and in May, Japan's finance ministry announced plans to computerize sea freight clearance at Tokyo, and four other ports.

From Frances Pearce in Hong Kong

Between 5,000 and 10,000 British and American firms are believed to trade electronically.

According to Tradelink, procedures and paperwork account for 3 to 5 per cent of the cost of trading. Studies in Britain indicate that additional personnel and postage costs can bring this to 6 or 7 per cent.

This means that Hong Kong traders with profit margins seldom higher than 5 to 10 per cent could make massive savings by adopting EDI.

Tradelink points out that formatted electronic data is more accurate than most paperwork and is quicker to process, which further reduces costs. It cites a variety of instances where EDI has saved organizations money.

British Coal, for example, saves £13,000 for every 50,000 invoices it receives electronically and another £9,000 on stationary and postage on every 50,000 orders it sends out. Up to 100 EDI systems are used in Hong Kong but Tradelink will be the first to link them into a national and international network.

It aims to provide either a centre clearing house facility through which EDI communications will be made, or a network that links traders, carriers and others directly to each other and government agencies. Computers, facsimile machines and telex might all access the system, a spokesman said.

Documentation for approximately 50 per cent of the freight passing through Hong Kong's Kai-Tak airport is already handled by a 10-year-old Cargo Information Exchange System which links 13 major airlines with freight forwarders and allows those goods to be processed automatically by customs.

The benefits are significant. An International Air Transport Association study shows that the average consignment of traditionally handled air cargo is likely to spend 60 per cent of its transit time waiting for paperwork to catch it up. And while documents that are handled manually take longer to be processed, they are also more likely to contain errors.

Tradelink quotes studies carried out by UK banks, for instance, that show that 49 per cent of letters of credit contain errors. Returning them for correction stalls transactions and causes extra work.

Language represents a stumbling block to the development of the system for all Hong Kong's international trade. Some 30 per cent of trade documents processed in Hong Kong are written in Chinese script. Question marks hang over whether traders can, or will, move to roman script for paper or EDI, particularly in the run-up to 1997 and the return of the colony to mainland Chinese rule.

Portable PC claims desktop power

Compaq Computer, a pioneer maker of transportable computers that got off to a late start in the growing laptop machines market, introduced its smallest computer yet last week.

The Houston-based company showed its new battery-operated SLT-286 laptop system, a computer it said matched the function of desktop computers but comes in a 14lb package.

The company defended its late entry into the laptop market, saying it had intentionally waited for key technologies such as improved battery life and display resolution before introducing a machine.

The two key features of the new computer are a long-life nickel-cadmium battery, which the company said would last for more than three hours, and an enhanced backlit liquid crystal display compatible with IBM's high-resolution VGA display standard.

The company said that battery life was the principal reason that Compaq had chosen a low-power consumption version of the 286 chip.

The computer is priced between £3,400 and £3,900, significantly higher than its immediate competitors, and analysts suggested that initially it might face tough times.

The laptop market, which was estimated at \$750 million in 1987 by Dataquest, a California market research company, is projected to grow rapidly. Dataquest predicts that the market will reach \$3.2 billion by 1990.

In addition to Compaq, both IBM and Apple are expected to introduce powerful laptop machines shortly.

The reason for the industry growth, analysts said, is that for the first time laptop machines are integrating all of the features of desktop computers. Some believe that in the future individuals will begin to select laptops as their only computer.

Science brings water to the world's arid lands

By Malcolm Smith

Technology using polymers could play a vital role in halting the seemingly inexorable spread of desert in many of the world's developing countries where replanting trees is the key to stabilizing erosion, arid soils and increasing food production.

Tree survival in parched, often sand, soils is depressingly poor. This is where the polymers come in. Polyacrylamides (PA) and polyvinylalcohols (PVA), both complex synthetic polymers, can hold millions of tiny drops of water in their three-dimensional criss-crossed structure of chemical molecules.

As a result, they can absorb up to a 1,000 times their weight of water — the reason why there have been claims that when polymers are dug into arid soils they can hold water close around the roots of a planted tree, giving it a much greater chance of survival through the critical stage of establishment.

British scientists from the Institute of Terrestrial Ecology, and Sudanese scientists from the University of Khartoum, have been studying this claim.

In one trial in arid, sandy soils in Sudan they used year-old seedlings of eucalyptus, a tree often grown for its timber. They found that transplanted seedlings survived for almost twice as long if either PA or PVA polymers were used in the soil around the tree roots.

When they irrigated transplanted trees every six days to simulate intermittent rain or water pump filter — all too common because of shortage of spare parts or lack of fuelwood — up to 71 per cent of the trees planted with polymer survived. The ones planted in soil alone died.

Using two different acacias — trees grown in arid areas for timber and fuel — for making crop-protecting hedges and to yield gum arabic, they again found that both types of polymer aided tree survival and growth.

Seedling establishment 50 days after transplanting was up to 40 per cent better with polymers. The most impressive finding, though, was a fivefold increase in tree survival when seedlings were put under greatest stress by severely restricting their water supply, achieved using one part of PVA to 200 parts of soil.

It is the tiny amounts of polymer needed to achieve such impressive results which holds the key to their future large-scale use to put forests back where there is now desert.



Feeding time: how plant roots attach themselves to the water-storing polymer for nourishment

Dr Terry Callaghan, who leads the joint British-Sudanese team, believes that, for arid-land planting, one part of either PA or PVA polymer to 500 parts of soil by weight is usually sufficient.

Although the polymer is expensive — up to £5,000 a tonne — the cost per tree works out at 1.6p. Mr Callaghan quotes nursery-grown eucalyptus seedlings which sell for around 6p each in comparison, and the saving in irrigation costs, that are likely as a result.

Both PA and PVA are non-toxic, granular, white powders, easy to transport — providing they are kept dry, and because they degrade only very slowly in soil they can absorb and release water to tree roots for at least five years, giving saplings a head start in life.

A recent estimate by a United Nations agency is that Africa's remaining forests are being cleared at the rate of 3.7 million hectares a year. But only 126,000 hectares are

being replanted each year and 55 million Africans face an acute shortage of fuelwood as a result.

One estimate puts the number of rural dwellers in the world who will be acutely short of fuelwood by the year 2,000 at 150 million.

Tree survival in existing restocking schemes is notoriously poor. In an attempt a few years ago to plant 500 million tree seedlings in Ethiopia, only 15 per cent survived. Polymer technology could turn tree planting into a success story at last.

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New plastic lens helps people with cataracts

By Mike Ward

Research scientists at Florida University's biomedical engineering centre have developed new plastic materials that may soon benefit people with cataracts who receive artificial lens implants.

Professor Eugene Goldberg and his colleagues have developed a plastic coating for the lens that they say reduces wear on various parts of the eye.

Conventional artificial lenses are made using the transparent plastic polymethylmethacrylate. But, says Professor Goldberg: "Although this plastic is very satisfactory there is concern over long-term complications because it is water repelling, and tends to chafe against the living tissue surrounding it."

This may distort vision and lead to the growth of abnormal tissue that can degrade the eye further.

He and his colleagues have developed a coating that is hydrophilic, or water loving, which bonds to the surface of the artificial lens.

The coating bonds strongly to water molecules, including those in contact with living tissue, lubricating the contact between the tissue and the hard lens.

"This produces a surface that is more gentle with that tissue and thus significantly reduces damage to the eye," says the professor.

Moreover, the modified coating retains the proven properties of polymethylmethacrylate.

Pharmacia Ophthalmics, the US arm of the Swedish health-care company, now plans to run full clinical trials with the modified lens coating in the US within the next few months, says Bill Wittig, the marketing director.

The company, which has licensed the technology from Florida University, hopes to start European trials at the beginning of next year.

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The prospect of 1992 generates vim and vigour as the country prepares for a single unified European market

A whiff of promise in the air

STEPHEN MARKESON

Italy is demonstrating a business-like briskness this year, with determination to get things done and tackle the outstanding problems, writes Roger Boyes

AGENZIA CONTRASTO

Some time ago the Economist Intelligence Unit, with characteristic cheekiness, drew up a Utopia Index. If it was strictly necessary to give birth in 1988, where was the best place to do it?

Italy came fourth out of a field of 50, narrowly pipped by France, West Germany and the United States. Strong economic indicators, high literacy and life expectancy, good on human rights, reasonable cost of living, great cultural assets, and an interesting cuisine — a country for the child of our times. Britain, by the way, came seventh.

There is something of the cartoon strip about such calculations but they usefully separate the public image — Italy stuck in a constant cycle of crisis — and the solid merits of everyday life. Italy, in fact, is changing rapidly. Partly for the worse — urban crime has become very visible, air and water pollution is despoiling beautiful landscape.

But the changes are largely for the better; the euphoria of the new Italian economic miracle (the Craxi years of 1983-86) that gave way to the self-destructive pessimism of 1987 has now emerged as a business-like briskness, a determination to get things done, to tackle outstanding problems. There is vim and vigour, as well as carbon monoxide, in the air.

Some of the credit for this new seriousness goes to Europe, or at least to the agreed 1992 deadline for a single unified market. Europe has always been a modernising element in Italian society, a frame of reference for businessmen and politicians alike.

Italy has to become more competitive if it is to survive

the shock of 1992; but it also has to take a critical look at its style of government, the patterns of political protection that pull it away from Europe towards the Mediterranean, and its leaden bureaucracy.

There are signs this year that Italy is facing up exactly to these challenges. The political theatre is remarkably free of the devious sub-plots that put an end to the briefly promising government of Signor Giovanni Goria. Signor Ciriaco de Mita, the wily Christian Democratic premier, has his backbenchers (called "snipers" in Italian) under control.

Bettino Craxi of the Socialist Party is, at the time of writing, wearing his states-

man's suit. The Communist opposition, under its new leader, Signor Achille Occhetto, has declared itself willing to go along with institutional reform. The first steps have been encouraging: the Italian parliament is restricting the use of the secret ballot.

This device, once an admirably democratic vehicle, was taken to anarchic extremes during the Goria government. Because his backbenchers repeatedly defected (under cover of the secret vote) to the opposition, his budget was defeated on 17

points and ended up as a poorly wrapped parcel, dangling string.

The spirit of reform (some of which has been talked about for a decade) is sweeping party headquarters. There are obvious problems ahead. For example, none of the smaller coalition partners (the Republicans, the Liberals and the Social Democrats) is likely to give ground on limiting the country's strict system of proportional representation. To accept a 5 per cent electoral hurdle, as in West Germany, would be suicide.

But there are ways of strengthening the Government and the role of the Premier without closing down smaller parties. Apart from changing institutions — by making parliament smaller, say — the Christian Democratic party itself will have to bite the bullet. The Christian Democrats have maintained their hegemony over the years without ever having won an absolute majority; they have consistently had to share power after striking deals with other parties.

Signor de Mita is currently balancing his two functions, of premier and party chairman. His main priority is to keep the economy on course, push political reform through parliament, and only then, re-define the relationship between party and government. That may be leaving it a bit late; his government still has a forward impetus, but so too did the Goria administration before the budget was presented to parliament.

Economic success is more important than ever. Inflation is below 5 per cent, growth this year will be good, somewhat under 4 per cent. Most significant is the attempt, the most determined in a decade, to



Among his voters: Ciriaco de Mita, the Christian Democrat premier whose main priorities are to keep the Italian economy on course and push political reforms through parliament

rein in public spending and debt in the budget arrangements for 1989.

The abolition of the secret vote should smooth the progress of the budget proposals which include structural reforms of taxation and public spending mechanisms. The goal is to cut the public deficit from this year's 11 per cent of gross domestic product to 10.2 per cent, or about £50 billion next year.

The cuts bite: a partial block on civil service recruitment, new controls on health spending. Parliament may buy the budget — but will the trades unions? Italy, and Signor de Mita, can expect a hot industrial winter.

The Prime Minister, apart from his manifold other tasks, must convince the Italians that the next few years of belt tightening will pay off after 1991. As Professor Fabrizio Onida of the Bocconi Business School recently wrote: "1992 could either herald the beginning of a dangerous marginalisation of Italy within Europe or it could be the stimulus for another economic Renaissance".

Italy's political caricaturists

are quick to point out the parallels between the situation of Signor de Mita and Mikhail Gorbachev. Both are making important political compromises in pursuit of reform: both have to convince sceptical populations that reform means first sacrifice, then rewards; both are aware of the necessary links between economic and political reform; both are saddled with dead-weight but politically active bureaucracies. Both (that is where the caricaturists come in) are losing their hair.

Leonardo Sciascia once wrote of the "Palm Tree Line", a kind of corruption frontier, that is advancing northwards, mile by mile, year by year. Sciascia's hero concludes that the line has passed Rome and is marching ever on. That remains an unfortunate fact.

It will be difficult to convince the south that parliament and the premier should be strengthened at the cost of the parties, it will be difficult to break the back of decades of patronage. But it will happen.

Several academics argue (most recently Professor Valfra Palanca on behalf of

the Agnelli Foundation) that Italy is moving from a north-south bipolar society, to a multi-polar country. The economy has pockets of success in the south too, literacy and television is bringing southern attitudes in line with the north, and some of the most enlightened Christian Democratic politicians (including Leoluca Orlando of Palermo, profiled in this supplement) are active in the south.

There is a danger that Italy in 1992 will become even more a two-speed country. Turin clocks synchronized to Frankfurt, southern clocks in line with the Maghreb, but this need not be a fixed condition. In a quiet way, much is changing in the south.

This then is the season of house cleaning in Italy. It is, after a year of muddle-through politics, an interesting and promising time. 1992 remains a gamble for Italy. But Italy is demonstrating real determination in dealing with its problems: there is no trace of complacency. In Italy's Manichean struggle between self confidence and defeatism, the country is veering towards the former.



Facing up to the challenge: In the aftermath of the November 1980 earthquake, life goes on in this Naples slum as Italy starts to move from a north-south bipolar society, to a country with growing pockets of success in the south

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ITALY/2

FOCUS

Time of problems and promises

At a time when Nato's southern flank is looking shaky, Italy is proving a pillar of the alliance, says Roger Boyes

Deep in Calabria, in the dusty town of Crotona, the mothers are nervous and the daughters are learning English. Soon the US will transfer scores of F-16s to the airbase outside town and the time of promises and problems will begin. America is already part of their lives: America is where relatives fled to escape the grinding poverty of southern Italy; America is soap opera; America, let the daughters beware, is crew-cut fighter pilots.

The feelings may be mixed in Crotona, but in Rome it was always clear that the 72 F-16s to be evicted from Spain, would find a home in southern Italy. At a time when Nato's southern flank is looking distinctly shaky — Spain's purging of the fighter-bombers, Greece's complex negotiation with the US — Italy is proving to be a sturdy pillar of the Alliance.

For a country of tumbling governments, it has a remarkably consistent foreign and defence policy.

Since the war, Italy has submerged its foreign policy in international alliances and institutions. Italy was one of the first Nato countries to agree to introduce new missiles. In Europe, it has almost always been pliant about stationing US forces on its territory and actively participates in force reduction talks and the Nuclear Planning Group. For this, Rome has built up a reservoir of goodwill from the US, which was particularly pleased about the Crotona decision.

By the same token, Italy is an enthusiastic member of the European Community. Even in years that have witnessed



Valerio Zanone, Minister of Defence inspecting military research work at Monte Romano

the rise and fall of three governments, Italy has been a zealous supporter of European integration or at least of building up a strong central authority.

Although it still has a long way to go, the country is gearing up for 1992. The European idea is important; Europe was and is regarded as a vehicle of modernization, a way of pulling the country into serious contention with its northern neighbours.

As in so many other spheres, it was the businessmen who understood this first, the Milan or Turin executive who spent his lunch break on the phone to Frankfurt, who grasped from the beginning that the Italian domestic market was not sufficient for economic expansion.

The prime strength of Italian policy, seen from outside, is loyalty; whatever its domestic squabbles it stays a reliable member of the club, paying its dues. Its main weakness remains an inability to drum up the necessary funding or parliamentary consensus to support its commitment.

Thus countless European

Community directives have not been converted into law (and though binding are constantly flouted). And, under-financing of the army has an impact on operational efficiency. The Italian defence budget amounts to about a third of France's or West Germany's, yet the number of serving men is 80 per cent of these armies. Too many conscripts spend their time painting barracks.

There is then a gap between promise and fulfilment. But the essential problem is not that of finance or political shenanigans at home. Rather it is a question of self confidence. Like the other countries who lost the Second World War, Italy has been reluctant to devise a thrusting policy overseas. Hence its fondness for international platforms. This has greatly frustrated Italy's highly professional diplomatic corps.

One of the country's most distinguished ambassadors, Piero Quaranta, summing up his 44 years of diplomatic experience exclaimed: "An Italian foreign policy in the real sense of the word does not exist!" The historical experience runs deeper than the wartime failures.

Italy's struggle for unification gives it a special insight, and preference for, the mechanics of European integration. And the centuries of political division and domination by foreign powers have deprived Italy of a natural perch in the global pecking order.

As a foreign correspondent, one notices the vulnerability to outside opinion: a mildly critical article in the British or American press about, say, the state of the Italian postal service, the incompetence of politicians or the tentacles of the Mafia is immediately picked up and presented on the front page by the Italian press. Anguished cries of: "Are we really like this? How dare the British criticize us for putting striptease shows on television!"

But Italy has over the past two or three years become a more confident actor. The country is still the loyal club member but it is pushing forward in other areas too. In part, this is the result of the Craxi years — when he was premier between 1983 and 1987, Italy began to set its own pace.

As the economy grows — the

failed *sorpazzo* that pushed Italy ahead of Britain in the league table of industrialized powers — so foreign policy-makers have to be more assertive. Italy feels, for example, that it should play a leading, if not dominant, role in the Mediterranean region, bridging Europe and the Middle East. But how to do so?

When the US initiatives in the Middle East were foundering early this year, when the West Bank troubles were at their height, Italy jumped in and played host to Egyptian, Palestinian, Israeli and Jordanian leaders. When Europe was shunning Syria because of apparent links with terrorism, Italy was talking with Damascus. The White House, it is reliably said, once asked Signor Giulio Andreotti, the foreign minister, to ring up Colonel Gaddafi and smooth over yet another crisis in US-Libyan relations.

That is the nub, Italy, in search of a greater world role, seeks to mediate, to exploit its political skill and geographical position. But in the end, Italy is valued as an explainer, a conveyor of messages, rather than as a broker. The line between the two roles may be thin, but it is important.

Signor Andreotti has the power balancing skill of a Bismarck (and is intellectually better equipped), but has only a limited field to play the Great Game. What is left is a policy, admirable but not very challenging, of making as many friends as possible. Consider how much political energy Italy pours into its relations with geographically close neighbours such as Malta, Libya and Austria; none of them exactly in the super power league.

Signor Andreotti has been involved with Italian foreign policy, as a foreign minister or premier, for some two decades and he has left his stamp. Under his tutelage, Italian foreign policy has developed a moral dimension. Perhaps this is a personal matter — Signor Andreotti has always maintained strong connections with the Vatican — but it is also Italy's way of asserting its new importance: we are economically stronger, and with strength comes responsibility.

Italian aid to the Third World has gone up from 0.17 per cent of GNP in 1980 to 0.4 per cent in 1986. The British share over the same period slipped from 0.35 per cent to 0.33 per cent, Japan from 0.32 to 0.28 per cent, the United States from 0.27 to 0.23 per cent.

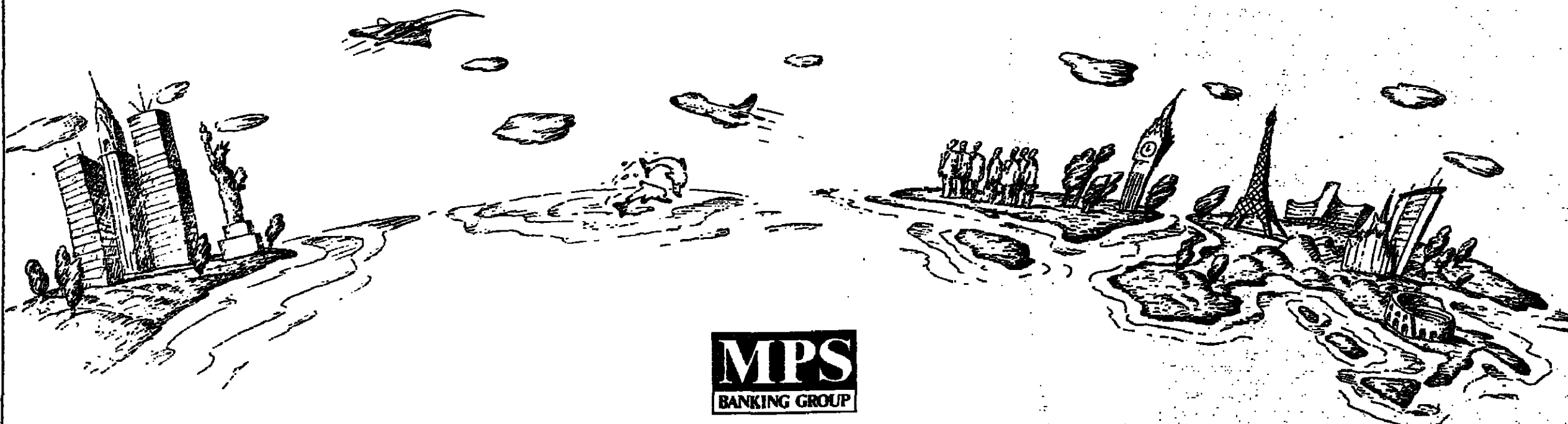
The summer odyssey of the toxic waste ship *Karin B* illustrates both the strengths and the weaknesses of the emerging Italy. Nigeria refused to store the poisonous cargo shipped by Italian companies. A diplomatic row ensued. Italy promptly accepted responsibility for the waste and chartered the *Karin B* to remove it. What would Britain have done in a similar situation? Rash to guess, of course, but the chances are that the government would have declared the disputed cargo to be a private matter between the Nigerian authori-

ties and the individual companies. The problems came, it will be recalled, not with the prompt response of the Italian foreign ministry but with the inability of the Government to persuade a port to accept the poisoned barrels. It is an odd kind of policy that is torn between noble imperatives ("it is our poison so we must take it away") and the grubby realities of parish pump compromises ("but not in our backyard"). How, lamented President Francesco Cossiga last month, can we be the fourth industrial power in the West and still not solve the riddle of the *Karin B*?

An answer of sorts is that Italy, as it moves into first gear, is a collection of tensions and insecurities and that its foreign policy reflects this admixture. Italy has set its priorities — the Atlantic Alliance and the Europe of 1992 — but it has not fully grasped how to convert its wealth into a truly assertive foreign policy. The overall impression is that Italy has few enemies, but little clout; perhaps that represents an iron law of politics.

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مكتبة الامم المتحدة

Radical political changes creating an impression of greater stability can be expected as 1992 approaches, writes Roger Boyes

Making sure the winner takes all

Bruno Craxi, the bulky, tart-tongued coalition broker of Italian politics, has two stock expressions for the television cameras: *glum* (which could be mistaken for Churchillian determination) and *righteously angry* (as if he were about to throw the money changers from the temple).

Sometimes, when the cameras are off, he seems into a smile. After the last election he was caught briefly off-guard without time to be either gloomy or outraged. He had just won a 3 per cent increase in the Socialist share of the vote, as close to a triumph as one comes in Italian politics. Yes, he said, it was good but usually in Italy everyone, or nearly everyone, wins the elections.

In a system of strict proportional representation, almost everybody does indeed emerge a winner, and yet nobody wins quite enough. Now for the first time Italian politicians are working on ways of creating clear winners and losers, for only that ultimately will guarantee the governmental stability of the country as it accelerates towards 1992.

The problems of the Italian electoral system are well known. There are over a dozen political parties but only three, representing the majority of the country, determine the real political complexion of Italy.

The Christian Democrats, with currently 34.3 per cent of



Bettino Craxi: The coalition broker of Italian politics, the vote dominant, but never won an absolute majority; they are condemned to compromise. The Communists (currently at a 20 per cent low with 26.6 per cent) are the biggest Communist party in Western Europe, have a large active membership but have been excluded from power since the war.

The Socialists of Signor Craxi have a pivotal 14.3 per cent of the vote. Theoretically, Signor Craxi could form a centre-left coalition with the Communists (such an alliance is always promised for the next election-but-one yet never seems to happen). In fact the Socialists win more votes by emphasising the differences with the Communists rather than the common ground.

The party landscape is completed by three moderate right wing parties — the Republicans, the Liberals, and the Social Democrats — who ally themselves with the Christian Democrats and the Socialists to form the *pentapartito* — the five party coalition.

The Greens have, since last year, established a parliamentary presence, the eccentric and frequently silly Radical Party fields its porno diva (Cicciolina), a disc jockey and assorted shooting stars. The neo-Fascist MSI, still relatively strong with over 6 per cent (much more in the South Tyrol where it claims to protect a beleaguered Italian minority) is even more in the cold than the Communists.

What is striking is that almost all these parties — even the neo-Fascists under a new, youthful ascetic lawyer — are fighting for the centre ground. When the post-war head of the Christian Democrats, Alcide de Gasperi, picked up his honorary degree at Oxford in 1953, he quoted Daedalus: "medio tutissimus ibis" — safety is in the middle way.

That is certainly true of the Christian Democrats, who since they must be handicapped to Signor Craxi to stay in power, are forced into increasingly "liberal" positions. There has always been an important "wet" component to Italian Christian Democracy, and nowadays the party has very little in common with its natural cousin, the British Conservatives.

The other main aspirant to mass party status, the Communist Party, is also busily repositioning itself under its new leader Signor Achille Occhetto. Its support of NATO may be lukewarm, but it talks sensibly about the European economy and fully backs the market economy, to

GOVERNMENT					
Leader	Ciriaco De Mita	Bettino Craxi	Georgio La Malfa	Antonio Cariglia	Renato Altissimo
% vote	34.3	14.3	3.7	3.0	2.1
Seats in Parliament	234	94	21	21	11
OPPOSITION					
Leader	Achille Occhetto	Sergio Stanzani	Gianni Mattioli	Gianfranco Fini	
% vote	26.6	2.6	2.5	5.9	
Seats in Parliament	177	13	13	35	

the point of putting the former head of the Italian Securities and Stock Exchange Commission on its list of deputies.

The new centrism of Italian politics has created a remarkable consensus about the future. The recent horse-trading over the secret vote in parliament demonstrated something about the new found sense of purpose. Secret voting in parliament is a 140-year old tradition, regarded as a guarantee of democratic liberties. No bullying whips in the Westminster mode.

But it had become increasingly plain that backbench rebels could use the secrecy to vote against their government and unravel the complex compromises clinched by the party leaders of the coalition. The secret ballot has become a

mischievous rather than libertarian device.

It was natural to begin a season of political and economic reform by limiting the vote. "Abolish it altogether!" chanted the Socialists. "Agreed," said Signor de Mita less confidently. "No, don't meddle," said Signor de Mita's close colleague and champion of many backbenchers Signor Andreotti. "If anything is sacred, it is the secret vote," expostulated the Communists.

But, in the present reform climate all the parties are proving themselves flexible. The Communists have accepted the need for open voting on key issues of financing and public spending, the Socialists accept that the secret vote should not be

completely scrapped. Signor de Mita is on talking terms with his foreign minister. The result is a bit like rice pudding, the two chambers of parliament will alternate in the use of the secret ballot for example.

In a muddled way the correct democratic decision has been reached. Had the secret vote been completely abolished, parliament would have lost much of its influence and power would have shifted to the parliamentary committees. The current proposals contain an element of checking and balancing.

If that can be achieved there are grounds for optimism for other institutional, electoral, and economic reforms. Can the small parties bite the bullet and accept an electoral hurdle



The opposition: Achille Occhetto, Communist party leader, left, Sergio Stanzani, leader of the Radical Party, centre and Gianfranco Fini, right, of the Socialist Movement, (Fascists) that will limit the number of small parties? Will the professional political class accept a reform that cuts back the number of deputies?

One's first response is: of course not. But who, before October, would have thought that the Communists were ready to accept any curtailment of the secret vote that provides them with their greatest parliamentary triumphs. The budget of Signor Giovanni Goria was defeated no fewer than 17 times when Christian Democratic defectors sided with the Communists to vote secretly for amendments.

The two most interesting parties to watch over the coming six months will be the Socialists and the Communists.

The Socialists by contrast have no shadow leadership war. Signor Craxi is in control. But although he strongly desires parliamentary reforms — it would make governing easier for him when he eventually returns to the premiership — there is a clear danger in being too supportive of the Christian Democratic leadership. His party is too small to be eternally loyal; it must, to maintain its identity, constantly emphasize differences.

It is one of Signor Craxi's more serious failings that despite raising the profile of the Socialist party, and mak-

ing it central to Italy's future, he has not developed the party infrastructure in the regions. He would rather tour the Maghreb, or hatch schemes in his penthouse headquarters. His political muscle is that of a skater travelling over thin ice rather than a long distance athlete. Expect some extravagant spins and figures of eight.

The Communists though are condemned to respectability. Somehow they have to rescue themselves from a long-term decline while at the same time demonstrating their sobriety, their sense of responsibility, and their willingness to share in the country's future. There can thus, despite its new leader, be no radical changes of direction only adaptation.

Both the Socialists and the Communists must therefore start pulling rabbits out of hats. Despite the new spirit of concord the next crisis is programmed.

"How is your crisis?" asked Ronald Reagan when the then Premier Signor Craxi arrived at the White House three years ago. "Fine thank you," replied Signor Craxi. Both men appeared to be discussing an ailing relative. The crises will remain a fixed feature of Italian coalition politics. But now at least the parties are beginning to agree on goals, if not on methods; that is the way out of the labyrinth.

John Earle examines the trades union stand

A movement on the defensive

"In excellent health, as regards membership," said Carlo Rissi at a recent seminar on the trades union movement. Signor Rissi is assistant secretary of the Catholic inspired CISL, one of the three big confederations along with the Communist-Socialist CGIL, and the non-confessional (Socialist, Republican, Social Democrat) UIL.

Last year their combined membership reached a record 9,166,771, above the previous 1980 high of 9,005,795.

It looks as if a recent steady decline in unionization from 49.3 per cent in 1978 of those in regular employment has been halted at 39.40 per cent. Biggest of the three is CGIL, with 4.7 million, followed by CISL with 3.1 million, and UIL with nearly 1.4 million. All three expect to end 1988 with more members.

The trend, admittedly, is inflated by a pronounced rise in the number of pensioners and retired workers, reflecting the ageing population and the thinning out of jobs on the

Communist, in opposition — and the Communists as a political party are themselves uncertain where to go. But both Signor Dal Turco and Signor Trentin regard the atmosphere as less tense than two or three years ago, and the leaders of all confederations proclaim publicly at least that unions must be independent of political parties, whether Communist, Socialist, Christian Democrat, or others.

The unions' disarray, together with the current practice in western economies of appealing to the individual — which, as Signor Dal Turco points out, is also an appeal to selfishness — has resulted in what he calls "do it yourself" unionism, particularly in public services such as education and transport.

Many recent strikes in air transportation have been called by maverick pilot or flight controller groups, or on the railways by so-called "cobas" (*comitati di base* or base committees) engine drivers — small in numbers, but

An era of do-it-yourself unionism is emerging in the public services sector

assembly line, but union leaders say membership among the actively employed is also recovering.

Here, however, any cause for rejoicing ends. As elsewhere, the movement is very much on the defensive, although to Ottaviano Dal Turco, CGIL assistant secretary and its number one Socialist, "the high wind appears to be passing in Europe without leaving too many dead and wounded."

Indeed his Communist colleague Bruno Trentin believes the swing towards Europe by Britain's TUC could provide a chance for breathing life into the ETUC. But the Italian movement faces its own crisis of identity.

Giorgio Benvenuto, UIL's Socialist secretary, spoke dramatically in July of "a real problem of survival." Signor Trentin sees it more as "an insidious illness." All agree, to quote Dal Turco, that the rules of the game have changed.

Unions have been slow to adapt to the introduction by employers of new technologies, and to the consequent shift in emphasis from blue to white collar workers. Whom should the unions represent, and how should they represent them? Should they speak for all workers in a firm, or just their members?

In many plants, elections to works councils have not been held for years, and the unions have got out of touch. The debate goes on, without a conclusion as yet.

In addition, the other confederations point to an internal crisis in CGIL, that has persisted since Antonio Pizzinato succeeded the authoritative Luciano Lama as secretary in 1986.

One fact, the Socialist, is in government, and the other, the

with the power to cause complete disruption.

Nevertheless, the three confederations have succeeded in maintaining a united front in negotiating national labour contracts.

It is on the level of company negotiations that their unity does not always hold. For example this summer Fiat, the biggest private company, rejected the unions' increasingly concerted platform and offered instead a pro-holiday lump-sum bonus. Since then CGIL has also remained odd man out in agreements concluded with several other companies.

In the early 1970s the confederations felt confident enough to plan their complete unification, but though that broke down, they worked hand in glove during the decade.

Their subsequent decline was symbolized by the "March of the 40,000", middle grade employees of Fiat against a strike called by the confederations in 1980. Then in 1984 the three split openly when CGIL rejected a cut in wage indexation under the Government's anti-inflation programme.

On tax reform, the union leaderships feel strongly. For while salary and wage earners have income tax deducted at source, tax evasion is widespread among higher professional people and the self-employed. "We are the sole country in the world where only the workers do their duty towards the inland revenue," said Signor Dal Turco.

Francesco Marini, CGIL secretary, recently declared that evasion costs the revenue some lire 30,000-40,000 billion (£13-17 billion). If this could be recovered, it would plug a hole in the chronic problem of government overspending.

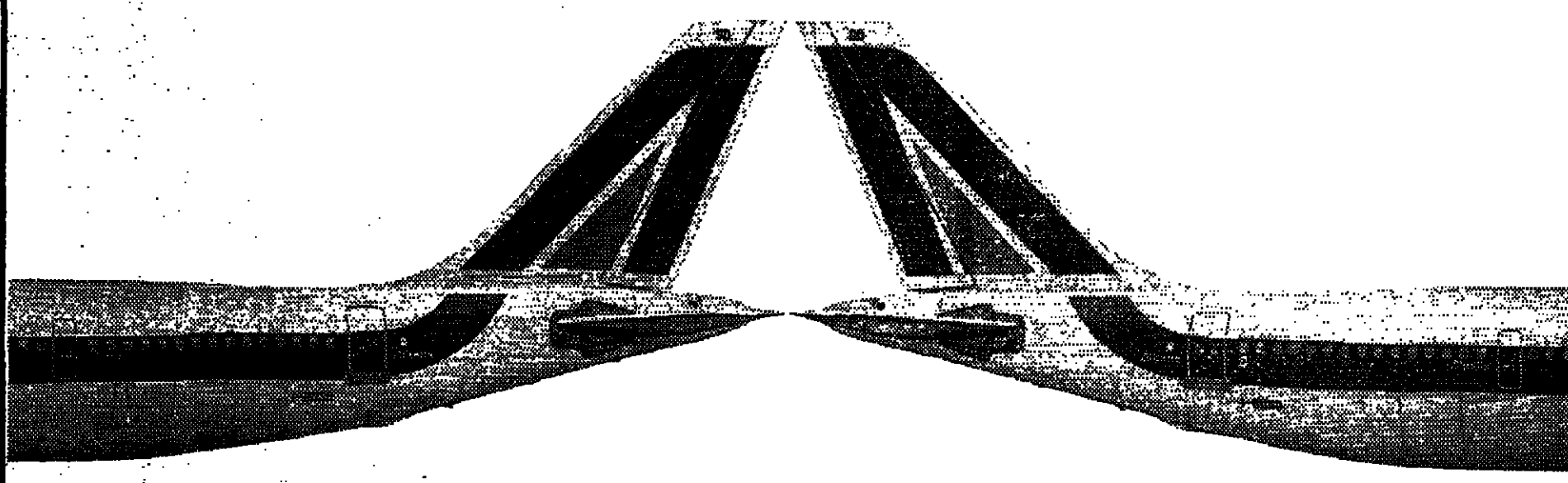


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"Bologna la Grassa": A typical, tempting window in the capital of Emilia-Romagna, one of the richest cities in Italy



Southern scenes: The social fabric of the south still remains substantially different to that of the prospering north

A year after the world's stock markets crumbled, a year after Italy's most listened-to analysts were forecasting a period of recession, Italy's economy and industry are doing better than ever writes Paul Bonapart.

The boom of the early 1980s, that transformed the Italian scenario from one of impending doom to one of the most prosperous and rapidly growing in Europe shows no signs of losing momentum.

But, all the old problems are still there, from an inefficient bureaucracy to public services that would not be tolerated in most developed countries, to a public debt that is very nearly the equivalent of one year's GNP.

These are handicaps that for years have been listed, by both Italian and foreign economists, as crippling to further development. They are still there, if anything worse than they were 10 years ago, and only inflation has been cut down to under 5 per cent after the monstrous peak of 21.2 per cent in 1980. Yet what has been often described as the "concrete economy" keeps charging ahead, even faster than it was before last November.

This year, Italian industry is producing over 4 per cent more than it did last year, and there are even signs that the traditionally high unemployment rate is being slowly cut down. The latest official estimates indicate a growth in GNP of 3.6 per cent, compared to only 3.1 per cent in 1987, before the collapse of the financial markets.

Certainly, this is a positive situation common to most industrialized countries. Despite the fateful forecasts of institutions as hallowed as the IMF and the OECD, and certainly helped along

An economy that defies all forecasts

by the fall in oil prices, the predicted recession of Western economies has turned into a second boom period.

Some observers believe that this second boom will prove to be healthier and more solid than the first, now that the fragility of purely financial structures, vis-à-vis industry and commerce, has been demonstrated. Yet Italy is doing what other European countries are doing in what should be a much more difficult situation.

In late September, Italy's public debt was over lire 1 million billion (£420,000 million), the equivalent of 94.5 per cent of the nation's estimated GNP for 1988. Eight years ago, in 1980, the national debt was only 55.1 per cent of GNP. And year after year government spending is steadily in the red. And, almost comically, every year there is the same outcry that this cannot go on, that the economy cannot develop in this situation. But it does.

At the moment, the public debt is equivalent to lire 18 million (£7,500) for every living Italian. The great danger for the state is that once Europe's capital markets open up completely, it will be much harder to persuade Italians to put their money in Italian treasury paper.

The image emerges of an Italy divided in two: an inefficient, almost parasitical state that spends more than it can make or collect, and a private sector that is healthy, aggressive and innovative, but forced to support the mammoth parasite.

Italians pay high taxes, in exchange for ambitious but complex and haphazard services that often seem designed more as elements in the political spoils system than as public services. In fields like health and pensions, most Italians who can afford it turn to private insurance schemes. Thousands of private courier systems have sprung up because of the incredible slowness and unreliability of the postal system.

Yet in this scenario, industry both large and small, has flourished and continues to do so. The biggest private industrial group, Fiat, has been turning in ever greater sales and profits, year after year, and has become Europe's biggest car maker.

Silvio Berlusconi, who initially emerged as a media magnate and real estate developer, now controls cinemas, supermarket chains, film and TV programme production and a host of other activities, and will almost certainly be one of the

key figures in the much heralded European TV networks.

And, the Ferruzzi-Montedison group controlled by Raul Gardini has become, in only a few years, a force to be reckoned with on a European and world scale. Even within the state-controlled holding companies like IRI, ENI and Efim, there are areas of great efficiency and international competitiveness.

As for the medium and small companies, they continue as always to adapt rapidly to changing market demands, to new ideas and technology, and remain a basic foundation stone and safety buffer within the Italian economy. They also, perhaps, benefit from a kind of *de facto* deregulation because of the absence or vagueness of control and intervention by state institutions.

Where there could be problems is in the financial sector, from services to industry to run-of-the-mill banking business. Italy's banks are antiquated and have grown used to existing in a protected environment. But hopefully this will change under the pressure of 1992, and the threat of losing business to banks from other European countries on home ground.

In fact, the great hope is that the almost menacing deadline of the end of 1992 and the beginning of 1993 will provide the long-awaited stimulus that will force the political establishment of Italy to put into effect a whole series of reforms, both political and administrative, that have been talked about for many years but never concretely acted upon.

Italy is a nation that has always reacted better in situations of sudden crisis than to normal calls for reform and modernization, and "1992" may be just the jolt that is needed.

The contrasts that create an entire world of difference

A rich north and a poor south. The old pictures of an Italy divided almost exactly across the middle holds true today as much as it did 150 years ago, despite constant attempts by virtually every government in power to try and balance the situation, writes Paul Bonapart.

A prominent Italian politician said recently, with a hint of wishfulness, that if the "Mezzogiorno" or the south of Italy could be removed, the country from Rome northwards would be the richest nation in Europe.

The reasons are historical. The industrial revolution linked to central and western Europe, transferred the big northern regions while the south remained completely agricultural.

We have chosen to compare two regions, Emilia-Romagna and Molise because each in its own way is both typical, respectively of the north and of the south, while at the same time being unique. Also, they are relatively close, less than 300 kilometres as the crow flies, a two hour drive, yet in many ways light years from each other.

Emilia-Romagna, north of the Apennines and stretching across to the Adriatic has long been considered one of the most modern and civilized parts of Italy. In Bologna, the region's capital, is Europe's oldest university, dating back to the 12th century.

In more modern times, the region has become known for its great entrepreneurial spirit, particularly in the field of engineering. In contrast with the mammoth factories of the extreme north, the Emilians have preferred to concentrate on more modest small and medium-sized industries, often with great technological and stylistic refinement. Names like Ferrari, Maserati, Lamborghini and Ducati all belong to the Emilia-Romagna.

Emilia has also traditionally been a land of political innovation and activism. In this century it has been the homeland of the Italian Socialist and Communist workers' movements.

Much less can be said of Molise, a geographical backwater that is both poor and, compared to the north, underpopulated. Set between the Puglia, Lazio, Campania and Abruzzi, it is definitely a second-class region. Within the imagery of the north-south stereotype, Molise has always been considered

one of those underdeveloped, forgotten regions like Basilicata that are a weight on the national economy and a stain on the country's vision of modernity.

Molise has a population of about 330,000 people, less than a tenth of Emilia's almost four million inhabitants, in an area that is roughly a quarter of Emilia. While Emilia's population is slowly declining (annual mean of -4.3 per thousand inhabitants) faster than the national average, (+1.4 per thousand), Molise's is still growing, (+1.7 per thousand).

Per capita GNP in 1986, was lire 19,336,000 in Emilia, compared to only lire 10,573,000 in Molise. Services were similarly disproportionate. The number of hospital beds is a good example: 9.1 for every thousand inhabitants in Emilia, but only 5.9 in Molise. Unemployment likewise shows a marked contrast between the regions, with a 7.9 per cent rate in Emilia and 9.9 per cent in Molise.

The social fabric is also substantially different. In Emilia 37 per cent of the women work, against only 29 per cent in Molise. In 1986, as part of Italy's policy of promoting development in the South, Molise received over lire 92 billion towards the creation of infrastructures and assistance to agriculture, industry and tourism.

Yet like all things Italian, the stereotype only holds true up to a point. Apart from its wealth in natural beauty, its wild, mountainous hills, Molise has recently developed islands of industrial wealth that are the envy of the industrialized north.

Two examples of Teramo, on the brief strip of Adriatic coast, Fiat has built what is probably the world's most advanced engine assembly plant.

At Isernia, the headquarters of the Pantum company, producers of casual wear. Begun as little more than a cottage industry in the early 1970s, Pantum today has sales of over lire 400 billion.

These islands of modernity and prosperity, however, are superimposed on a relatively primitive, almost feudal culture of agriculture, in a hard, mountainous environment. Regions like Molise are making a jump straight from peasant farming to a post-industrial existence. It is the curious kind of situation where it is not impossible to see a teenager playing with his computer while chickens wander in and out of the front room.

A PREVIEW OF TOMORROW'S ECONOMY

EVENTS IN JANUARY, FEBRUARY, MARCH

CHIBICAR '89	Gift articles, perfumery items and costume jewellery	26 - 30 / 1
CART '89	Stationery	26 - 30 / 1
27 th SALONE INTERNAZIONALE DEL GIOCATTOLO	Toys	26 - 31 / 1
MIFLOR '89	Nursery-gardening	3 - 6 / 2
I. CO. GRAPHICS '89	Computer graphics	7 - 10 / 2
MACEF PRIMAVERA '89	Household articles, gift items and precious stones	10 - 13 / 2
MIAS INVERNALE '89	Sports articles and camping equipment	19 - 21 / 2
B.I.T. '89	Tourism exchange	22 - 26 / 2
SICOF '89	Cine and photo equipment and optics	2 - 6 / 3
MODIT	Presentation of women's collections	3 - 7 / 3
CONTEMPORARY	Presentation of women's avant-garde collections	3 - 7 / 3
MILANOVENDEMODA STUDIO	Fashion	3 - 7 / 3
SPOSAITALIA	Fashion	3 - 7 / 3
MILANOVENDEMODA DONNA ITALIA	Fashion	3 - 7 / 3
TAU EXPO '89	Environment conservation, fire-lighting and protection	7 - 11 / 3
MODA IN	Fabrics and accessories	14 - 16 / 3
25 th COMISPEL '89	Furs	15 - 19 / 3
GRAFITALIA	Graphic and publishing industry	16 - 20 / 3
CONVERFLEX '89	Industrial paper processing machinery	16 - 20 / 3
55 th MIPEL	Leathergoods	17 - 20 / 3
EXPO DONNA EUROPA '89	Technology, marketing, products for women	31 / 3 - 4 / 4
MODA ITALIA CALZATURE	Footwear	March/April
MILANOFIL '89	Philatelic Exhibition	31 / 3 - 2 / 4



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BRIDGING THE PRESENT AND THE FUTURE.

The scenario.

From 1992 the open European market means that products and services will no longer be constricted by national boundaries. Competition will become more aggressive. Products and markets mature even more rapidly. These elements, the elements that will characterise the 90's are easily recognised, even if it is difficult to identify the way that they will come together. What is certain, however, is that once again change will accelerate and once again companies will have to face up to new situations. They will have to guide and mould change to suit their own operating needs and capitalise on change as an occasion for growth and development, if they don't want to be swept away.

Olivetti, Europe's leading manufacturer of information technology and office automation products and systems has already started to answer the problems caused by these changes.

The solutions.

The history of technological innovation in the computer industry has been the history of a handful of companies. One of them is Olivetti. In the fifties, Olivetti was involved in the first European mainframe project; in the sixties, it launched the world's first desk top programmable computer, the P101; and in the seventies, it introduced the first electronic typing systems.

It is not, however, merely a question of technological prowess, it also involves a deep understanding of the market and the client's needs.

In the space of 12 months, this combination of state-of-the-art technology and practical, cost-effective solutions has led to major enhancement of Olivetti's total product range. An exceptional achievement unequalled by any other company.

During this period, Olivetti has announced three major developments in information technology:

- the launch of ET/ETV series, the first range of secretarial workstations designed to change and grow according to individual needs - "Personal secretaries for secretaries";
- the introduction of a new PC family built around "choice of freedom" which respects the rights of the consumer and does not lock them into pre-determined paths;
- the announcement of Open System Architecture, a new system that overcomes the problems of incompatibility between standards, offering genuine integration of computer equipment from different manufacturers. It allows users to upgrade and protect their investment.

This safeguard of continuity is symbolised by "The Bridge" linking past, present and future.

The structure.

Olivetti is a major force in information technology and it has its roots in Europe. Its factories which are equipped with sophisticated advanced automation processes, produce high quality products such as personal computers. The Scarmagno plant alone, has a capacity of 750,000 machines a year. This makes Olivetti the major producer in Europe of personal computers.

In the last five years, the company has invested around one thousand million dollars in research and development. Over 4,000 employees are involved in this area, which is equal to 7% of the group's personnel, in more than 10 countries in Europe and North America. In addition, Olivetti has developed a network of technological and commercial alliances through both joint capital ventures and participation.

Olivetti is present in more than 30 countries with its own subsidiaries. It ensures a presence in other countries through a series of joint sales agreements by working with local agents. Around the world there are more than 9,000 technicians who guarantee the servicing of Olivetti products. This technical assistance has been extended to cover not only Olivetti products but also those of other manufacturers.

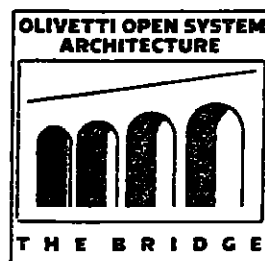
The challenge.

Today, Olivetti offers a new opportunity for growth and development for everybody: customers, investors and employees.

For their customers, Olivetti has designed products that recognise their need for autonomous and effective choices in information systems. For investors, Olivetti has made important strategic decisions guaranteeing maximum readiness and flexibility, taking into account the needs of the market.

For employees, Olivetti offers a company philosophy that commits vast resources to the creation of a new professionalism and to the development of individuals within a common culture.

In fact, the Olivetti philosophy has always been to take state-of-the-art technology and to develop it into practical solutions that the market can use. A simple philosophy but one that works. A bridge from the present to the future.



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Four men who help to make the face of Italy

Italy is a nation full of entrepreneurs and individuals who have created not only industrial empires, but strong traditions that shape the way of life today. We consider some of the ambitions, and achievements of Gianni Agnelli, Leoluca Orlando, Azeelio Ciampi and Silvio Berlusconi who rank among the most successful men, in their fields, not only in Italy, but in Europe.

Hair and master of Italy's oldest and most powerful industrial dynasty, Gianni Agnelli controls the Fiat group, Lancia, Ferrari, Alfa Romeo, two national dailies, *La Stampa* and the *Corriere della Sera*, the Telemontecarlo TV network and the country's most successful soccer team, Juventus, as well as dozens of other interests from armaments and electronics to biomedicine, writes Paul Bonnard.

In Italy he is known as "L'Avvocato", the lawyer, because of a degree in law and a national habit of giving everybody a professional title. Ask any Italian who "L'Avvocato" is and you receive an incredulous smile: "Why, Agnelli, of course."

A French magazine recently wrote a story about Gianni Agnelli with the title "The King of Italy". Certainly, if Italy had to choose a Royal family, there can be no doubt that the choice would fall on the Agnellis, a numerous and sometimes colourfully aristocratic clan, as a suitable backdrop to King Gianni.

A fanciful idea, certainly, but for Italians and foreigners alike, Signor Agnelli has come to represent some of Italy's most positive aspects: entrepreneurial intelligence, power exercised with great ability, the will to compete and win against foreign competition.



The power behind the industrial throne

great acumen in political and economic matters, and above all, great style and elegance.

In a land where personalities count more than institutions, Signor Agnelli has become a kind of human institution, directly linked to every major turning point in Italy's development since the war.

If Italy developed its roads more than its railways, it was to a great extent because Fiat wished it. When what has been described as

Italy's second Renaissance began in the 1980s, the major single event was a march back into the factory in 1980 by 40,000 Fiat workers who ignored the instructions of the unions. Since then, Signor Agnelli has guided Fiat, Italy's biggest private industrial group, to ever greater sales and profits, and to become Europe's largest car producer.

In terms of image, Gianni Agnelli has all the elements to make up an Italian national hero. An elegant mane of wavy silver hair brushed back from a face that is always slightly sun tanned.

What endears him even more to Italians is that for the first 40 years of his life he lived a life of pure pleasure in the international jet set, the stereotyped playboy-heir, all the sophisticated resorts, fast cars and the most beautiful and fashionable women.

Fiat had been founded in 1899 by Gianni's grandfather, Giovanni, his son, Edoardo had died while still young, and the company was run from 1946 to 1966 by Vittorio Valletta. When Gianni became president in 1966, it was very much as the reformed pleasure-seeker and spendthrift.

Since then he has proved himself an able and imaginative industrialist and on economic matters of national importance, when Agnelli speaks the country listens.



Banking on the prudent hallmark of integrity

fixed points of reference and renouncing all rules," he said.

"By the same token, rejecting its excesses should not imply returning with a vengeance to restrictions and controls." No secker after the limelight, the governor is reported to encourage full discussion of a problem among his staff, but then to take the decision himself.

Born 67 years ago in Leghorn in Tuscany, where the family owned an opticians business, he obtained

university degrees not in economics but in classical Greek and law. After distinguished war service in the army, he seemed destined for an academic career, but chose instead to sit for the entry exam into the Bank of Italy.

Thirteen years, from 1960 to 1973, were spent in the research department of the Bank, which has often proved a springboard for the top posts.

Married with two grown-up children, he takes little part in Rome's social life, but friends say he likes to get away at weekends to the coast at the local sailing club.

When he was appointed governor, the Bank was reeling from an unscrupulous attack, encouraged by certain coalition party politicians, who hoped to bring the Central Bank under their influence. Signor Ciampi's respected predecessor, Signor Paolo Baffi, had resigned prematurely and a deputy director had been arbitrarily imprisoned.

Since then Signor Ciampi has defended the Central Bank's autonomy from further outside attempts to condition it, and has protected the integrity of the banking system from politico-financial scandals such as led to the collapse of Roberto Calvi's Banco Ambrosiano.

L eoluca Orlando, 41, Palermo's dynamic young mayor, has to be protected round the clock by a team of bodyguards. His every movement involves the use of a bullet-proof car, several carloads of policemen with their fingers on the triggers of their weapons, and secret itineraries with sudden, last-minute route changes, writes Paul Bonnard.

Recently, the town hall had to be fitted with bullet-proof glass, after someone let loose with a gun. Undoubtedly, the Mafia would love to kill Leoluca Orlando. Not so much because of anything he could do as part of his job, but because mayor Orlando has proclaimed himself an enemy of the Mafia and of its presence in Sicilian business and politics, and has thus become a charismatic figurehead of legality.

Also a Professor of Law, his first political job was with Piersanti Mattarella, president of the Sicily Region, in the mid-1970s. Signor Mattarella was trying to combat the parasites who lived off public spending in the region, who made sure that contracts were given to "friends" rather than efficient contractors, but was stopped by a hail of Mafia bullets in 1980.

As a member of the Christian Democratic party, Professor Orlando continued his career and became first city councillor, then



The Mayor who fights with right on his side

alderman, and three years ago, when he was only 38, mayor of Palermo.

During these years mayor Orlando has done his best to run the city in a civilized manner, beginning with the giving of contracts for public works to the most economical and efficient company, rather than to those contractors who gave the best kickbacks in the right places.

Leoluca Orlando himself explains: "Everything was simpler,

before. There was a table around which administrators gathered, representatives of the industrialists, builders and merchants. Certainly there was also a Mafia chief present, who gave orders that everybody obeyed. It was the puppet system, operated for the pleasure of the Mafia bosses. Now there are no more puppets in the town hall."

But the mayor became a national, as well as a local hero here this summer, when he openly accused local politicians of being members or accomplices of the Mafia.

"Often, the Mafia has the face of the institutions," were the words that made headlines all over Italy. In an interview with the Turin daily *La Stampa*, mayor Orlando explained further: "In the past, Cosa Nostra had interest in constructing for itself a city councillor, and the time to wait for him to become alderman and maybe mayor. This interest no longer exists, but the politicians who in the past were elected with dirty votes are still there."

Leoluca Orlando has become the symbol and leading light of a Palermo that wants to prosper in peace, legally, without paying homage to Cosa Nostra, to its friends or the friends of its friends. His survival, both literally and politically, is essential to this struggle.



The empire builder who controls the silver screen

fluence the country socially, politically and economically.

If a few years ago Italy hoped for three state channels on the one hand and several independent private networks on the other, today there is virtually only the state and Berlusconi splitting audiences roughly down the middle. Certainly, Signor Berlusconi is given credit for having originally shaken the state monopoly. But many people are now realizing that he is now creating a television

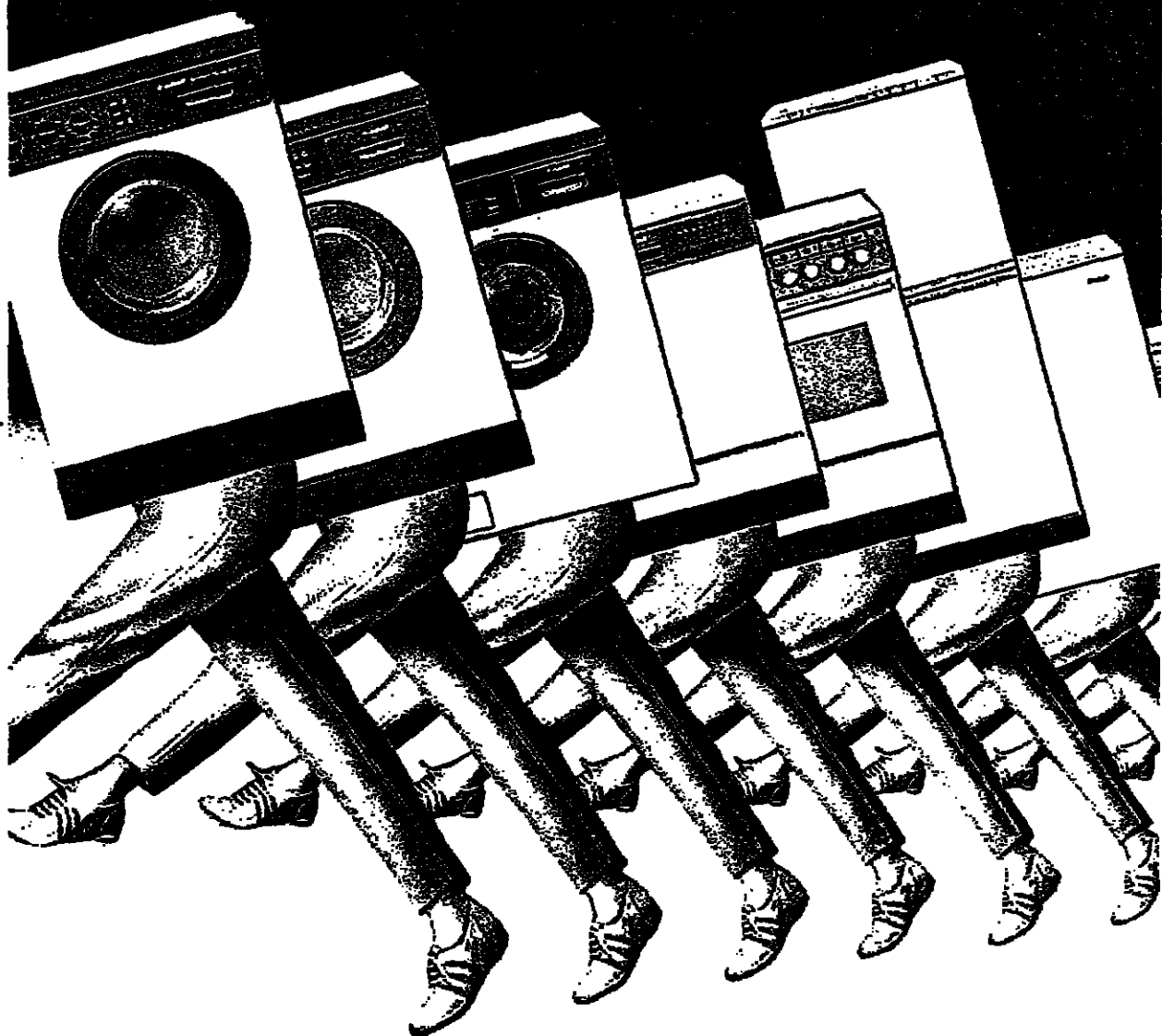
empire that aims brutally and ruthlessly at selling advertising, with beautifully produced but generally inane programmes.

Undoubtedly, Silvio Berlusconi has become the greatest and most successful media entrepreneur that Italy, and possibly Europe, has ever seen. He has already prepared very solid foundations to become one of the leading figures in a future pan-European network. But it is equally true that by hogging both audiences and advertising he has made it virtually impossible for other private networks to exist, and he is also taking an increasing share of advertising budgets away from newspapers and magazines.

Intellectuals generally accuse him of pushing Italian television towards a mind-numbing Disneyland of flash variety shows, thinly clad and generously endowed starlets and idiotic quiz shows. Clearly Signor Berlusconi has an enormous amount of potential power in forming public opinion.

At a relatively young 51, Silvio Berlusconi has a polished, shiny, handsome and a brash, arrogant self-confident style that can often be fascinating. But possibly his most fascinating characteristic is the single-minded ambition and clarity of purpose.

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ITALY/6

FOCUS

Where mud is glorious!

Janet Stobart discovers the unusual charms of the bubbling spa town and its muddy benefits

The Italian dream holiday hardly conjures up visions of mud and water, yet they are two components of this wonderful art and history which produce a massive tourist income.

Spa towns were a development of 19th century Europe and Italy is no exception to this rule, yet long before that, Italians were soaking in bubbling hot springs or covering themselves with mud and clay, inhaling sulphurous steam or sweating in hot damp rooms.

Since early Roman times, a large section of the population has been "taking the waters" in some form or another to combat anything from arthritic joints and war wounds to a blocked nose.

There are some 200 government approved spas, offering medical assistance, up and down the country and another 200 resorts where hot springs offer the attraction of open air winter bathing.

In keeping with the best northern European traditions, Italy's bath towns surged into the urban scene last century with magnificent hotels, neo-classical colonnaded water pools, decorated tap rooms,

marble lined halls and seating areas — a suitable setting for "conversations" over steaming mugs of ugly tasting but therapeutic water.

Since then modern hotels surrounded the original nuclei of such towns, but for the most part the large and spacious 19th century hotels, with the inevitable manicured gardens and fountains, hold their own.

Italy has the world's richest patrimony of mineral waters, says Franco Molinari of Assotermes, the state sponsored association which represents the interests of 12 state subsidised thermal resorts.

There is big business in Italy's hot bubbling water and seething mud. Last year's income from thermal cures in the 12 state spas alone, reached five 100 billion from 10.5 million thermal visitors between 1986-87. Some 1.5 million spa tourists were foreign visitors.

Most of these come from German speaking countries, traditional lovers of Italian mud and water. Italian spas are ever in

search of new clients and there is a growth of cosmetic and slimming cures springing up around the bigger resorts. Montecatini mud is bottled and sold along with a range of products from this magnificent 19th Tuscan spa.

An increasing crowd of young people figure in the somewhat surreal sight of several thousand water drinkers wandering round the neo-classical columns and fountains of the town's most famous thermal establishment — Il Tettuccio.

Here the five different kinds of tepid waters help cure intestinal, liver and bile problems. The effect of the dubious tasting water is quick and thorough — 1,000 public lavatories are discreetly but strategically placed in the carefully tended public gardens behind the colonnaded verandah where the orchestra plays.

One of Europe's leading spas, Montecatini, has tended some illustrious, notorious and royal celebrities from Giuseppe Verdi, Giacomo Puccini — many an operatic

aria was inspired here — to the Duke and Duchess of Windsor, the Duke and Duchess of Marlborough, Orson Welles and Clark Gable. Eva Curie, studied the radioactive contents of the waters, and King Ibn Saud who reopened the splendid Grand Hotel in the off season to house his huge retinue of wives and servants.

"Not bad for a place that began life as a swamp of volcanic mud," says Manfredi Gaggiolini, director of Montecatini's tourist office.

Like most of Italy's thermal springs, Montecatini is the result of the prehistoric volcanic make-up of Italy.

Salsomaggiore for example, in the north-east region of Emilia, another delight of turn-of-the-century thermal architecture, has its hot waters pumped from 2,000 metres underground.

Inaugurated by Marie-Louise of Austria, Duchess of Parma, in the mid 19th century, water and mud here are rich in mineral salts and iodine (even before the Romans, table salt was extracted)

and favoured by sufferers of respiratory problems, and used as therapy for gout, diabetes, bone fractures, sterility and menopause.

In keeping with the growing Italian ideal of remaining healthy rather than waiting for illness to strike, spa centres are becoming less and less a place where sick people congregate and more an attraction for people who want to stay healthy. The ancient Roman baths of Tivoli are still popular for Romans in search of a few hours swimming in the healthy clean sulphur waters.

A hundred kilometres north of Rome the hot (39°C) sulphur springs of Saturnia, thought to be the site of one of Italy's oldest settlements, surrounded by Etruscan remains, attracts visitors all year round, but particularly in winter when an outdoor swim in the pungent hot water leaves a sense of relaxation.

There is no doubt that Romans used the muds of Abano Terme near Padua where Roman well-heads still exist around founts of mud and water which spouts out at 80°C and which is now greatly favoured by Germans and Swiss clients.

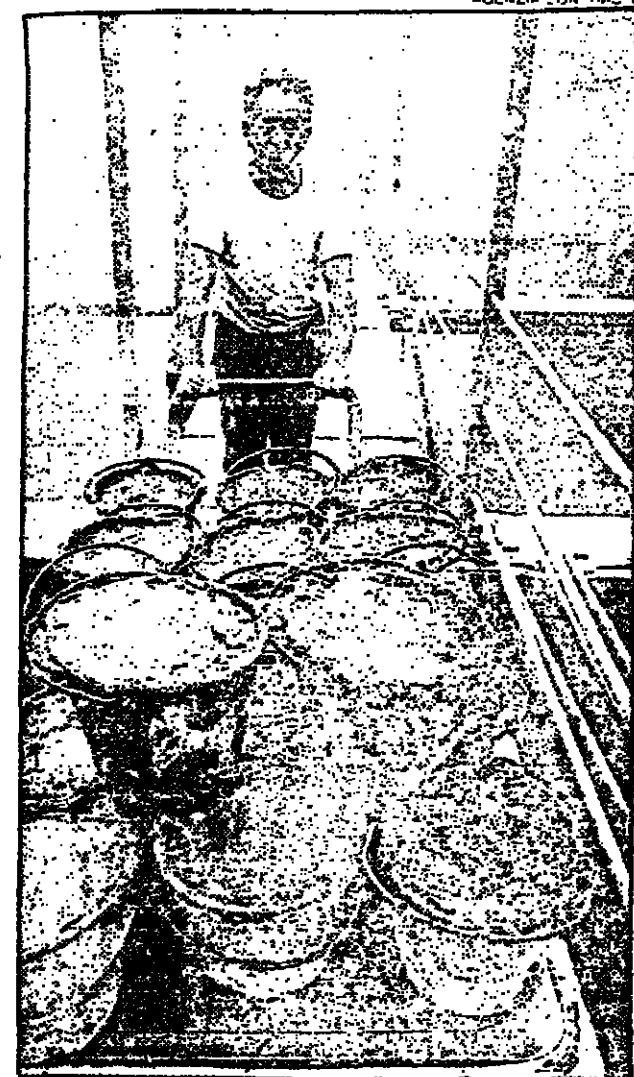
Another tiny hot water de-

light is medieval Bagno Vignone used by Romans then by the Medici family, where for lire 10,000 you can spend all day in and out of a 35°C calcium-rich water pool.

If that is too much, one can join the throng of local sufferers of rheumatism or simply relieve sore feet on the banks of the rushing hot stream which runs like a gutter through the outskirts of Bagno Vignone (population 75).

"It does wonders for rheumatism" says a Sunday foot bather happily sitting on a newspaper and munching a sandwich. "You can't do this at home, the water gets cold, the telephone rings..."

Meanwhile back in modern day thermalism, the philosophy is to bring the use of waters into the realms of medicine. For the first time in Italy, the National Council of Research is co-ordinating university research into the use of spa waters as a determining factor in health policy in Italy. On the international scale, three Italian spa experts are embarking on an exchange programme with three Soviet equivalents in a determined effort to insert water therapy into medical science.



Abano Terme: buckets of mud are always a welcome sight



Bernardo Bertolucci: Success with "The Last Emperor"

A passion for never-ending films on TV

It almost seems as if Federico Fellini should start filming a "La Dolce Vita Part II", adapting his bittersweet chronicle of high life in the Italian film world to include present-day success stories like Bernardo Bertolucci's "The Last Emperor" or Ermanno Olmi's Venice Festival Golden Lion winner "The Legend of the Holy Drinker". Italian film production has made an impressive comeback. After a critical spell during the 1970s when production began to dwindle, hitting rock bottom with only 89 films produced in 1985, a rejuvenated Italian film industry produced 115 films last year. The upcoming 1988-89 season looks appetizing as well: new films include a nostalgic "Splendour" from Ettore Scola, a sly Mickey Rourke in Liliana Cavani's "Francis", Roberto Benigni and Walter Matthau in "Little Devil", and Franco Zeffirelli's "Young Toscanini" extravaganza.

But while individual Italian directors retain a high international profile and production figures are back up, the Italian film industry still has another obstacle to overcome. This past season 105 Italian films were released, but fewer Italians went to the cinema to see them. Ticket sales have

conditioned offices of TV executives as the hub of the film community. Along with being the main consumer of films, television has become one of the biggest producers.

The RAI has produced or co-produced over 100 films in the past 10 years, picking up the bill for films by Fellini, Zeffirelli (Young Toscanini), Scola, the Ravian Brothers, and Mikalov's big hit "Dark Eyes". Signor Berlusconi has embarked on a sizeable film production programme as well: "Love and Fear", the only Italian entry at Cannes last year, was a Berlusconi production.

Some quarters of the film community grumble about television's "colonization" of film production. Others are quite happy to work for RAI or Signor Berlusconi, considering the alternative. Meanwhile, the show must go on.

The 1988-89 season sees a spate of adaptations from literary works. Fellini's new film, to cite but one, is based on Italian author Ermanno Cavazzoni's book "The Poem of the Lunatics". Says Fellini: "The book, for me, is a suggestion, a hint. If my films were influenced by anything it would be painting."

Italian film director, Lina Wertmüller sees something else behind this sudden new love of literature: television. "Fellini is a special case. In general, TV is behind it. All the decisions are usually taken by TV executives, who feel more safe if a story has a literary basis. The only way we can reverse this perverse logic is by developing new talent."

Only two titles out of the last season's top ten films at festivals were Italian, and the draw of both films was the popularity of their starring

comedians. For now, there are few new stars on the box office horizon with international appeal — and even a new talent like Greta Scacchi is more popular abroad than at home.

The real threat to Italian cinema is not television, RAI or Berlusconi, but American films. The 109 million Italians who bought tickets last year chose American movies — "Fatal Attraction", "Beverly Hills Cop II", and "The Untouchables". Help for Italy's troubled film industry lies somewhere along the lines of "The Last Emperor" — big-name directors, multinational backing, international story and cast.

"For European cinema, 1992 has already arrived," says leading Italian producer and distributor Vittorio Cecchi Gori. "Cinema is becoming more an international reality and less of a national phenomenon. 'The Last Emperor' has paved the way for a new industrial and cultural mentality."

The producers have fared slightly better. The sidewalk cafes of Via Veneto have been replaced by the cool air-

conditioned offices of TV executives as the hub of the film community. Along with being the main consumer of films, television has become one of the biggest producers.

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The shape of fairs to come

Downward spiral of ticket sales

spiraled steadily downward: 800 million in 1955, 500 million in 1975, 109 million last year.

Fingers are being pointed at television, the culprit that keeps people comfortably at home and out of their local theatres. Unregulated competition in a mixed public-private broadcasting regime has created an insatiable demand for films, the favourite choice of the Italian TV viewer. In an all-out ratings war, numbers speak louder than words.

From 1954-76, when public broadcaster RAI enjoyed a monopoly on the airwaves, it programmed around 100 films a year. By 1980, with the advent of competition from Silvio Berlusconi's three Fininvest networks, that number had increased to 420.

Last year, the three RAI channels transmitted a total of 1,300 films, and the three Fininvest channels showed a staggering 1,770.

It's not surprising that the film exhibitors were the first to be affected by the "Wild West" era of Italian TV broadcasting. Many cinemas have simply shut down (more than half, in fact). The ones that remain open lack the capital to renovate with new technology, like 70mm film projectors, that could entice the public back into the theatres.

The producers have fared slightly better. The sidewalk cafes of Via Veneto have been replaced by the cool air-

Jennifer Clark

Mass tourism is posing problems for the Vatican Museum, writes Judith Parsons

Days lost in holy wonder



A detail from Raphael's "Coronation of Charles the Great"

Awonder of the world it is, but the Vatican Museum is no place for the faint of heart. At the entrance in Viale Vaticano, a stiff upper lip is becoming obligatory as countless tongues, and crushing numbers of tourist groups compete for linguistic and logistical supremacy.

The Helicoidal stairway into the Museum, echoes disturbingly with the sound of feet as visitors literally pour in from all over the world.

Chaos intensifies around the elegant proportions of the Simonetti stairway leading to the galleries. Here, disorientated tourists battle against organized groups programmed to invisible agendas which demand break-neck speeds past the Apollo Belvedere, the Laocöon, Raphael's "Transfiguration of Christ" and Egyptian Mummies, to finally converge breathless and giggling in the Sistine Chapel.

Any notion of quietly absorbing the extraordinary juxtaposition of the magnificent papal surroundings and over 200,000 treasures, which cover the entire gamut of artistic expression, is shattered.

Initially, the prospect is daunting and the experience draining. It is impossible to see everything in a single day because there is not one, but 14 museums.

The collections were started by Pope Julius II in 1503 and regularly enlarged upon by successors. The latest addition — The Museum of Modern

Religious Art — was opened in 1973 after Pope Paul VI urged rapprochement between the Church and artists. Today, John Paul II often requests that a favourite work grace his public audience.

The Vatican's museums cover seven kilometers of galleries, which demand at least ten solid gazing hours. An average visit requires a minimum four-and-a-half hour walk.

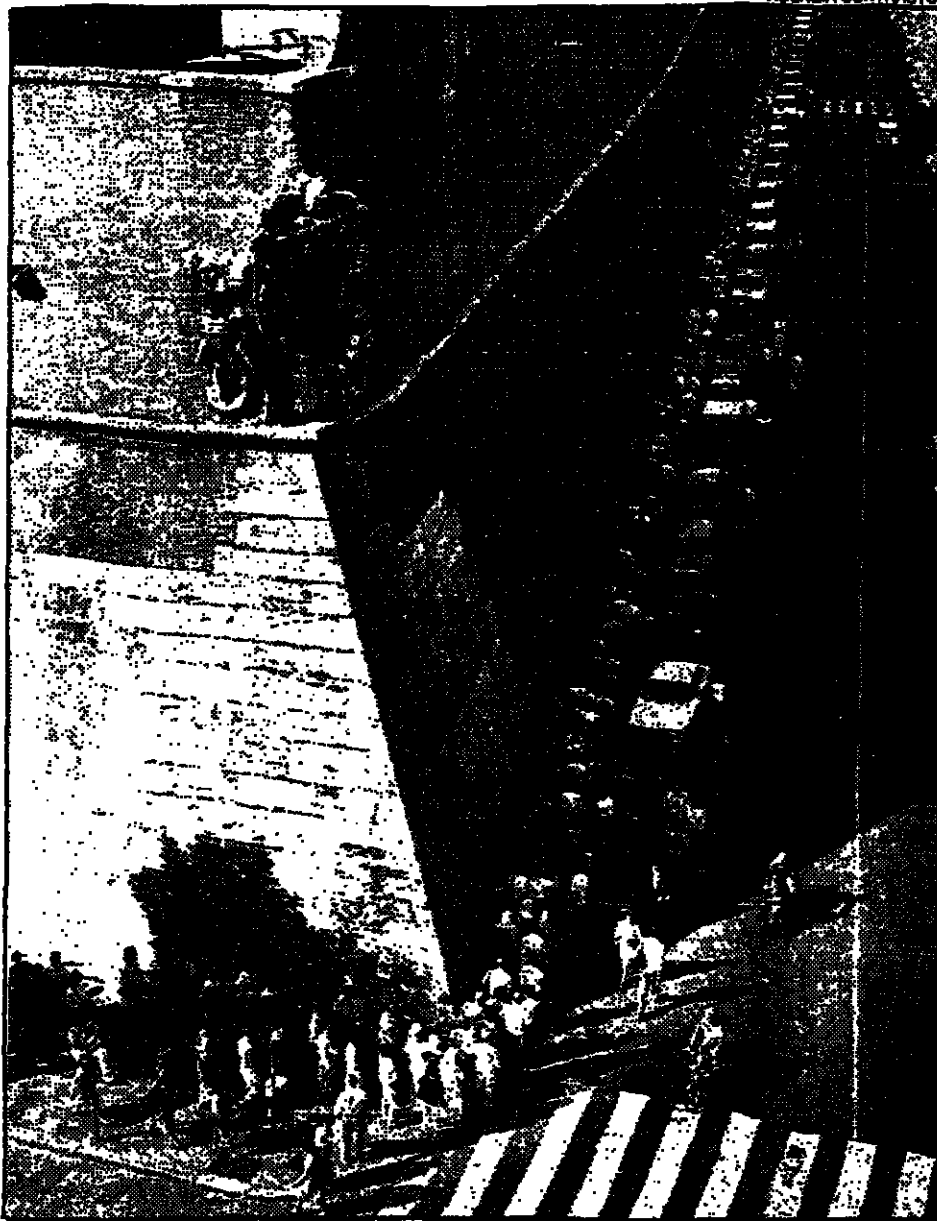
The daunting task of safeguarding both people and treasures falls on Walter Persagati who has done much to improve the visitor's lot.

From his medieval office, complete with TV monitoring screen, Signor Persagati watches an endless queue. He says his recurring nightmare is that one day undetectable plastic explosives will find a way into the Sistine Chapel.

As visitors approach two million a year, security and crowd control he says, is increasingly difficult.

"This is not a large number for a purpose-built museum, but the Vatican collections are housed in historic monuments, in ancient rooms with narrow corridors never intended for mass tourism."

He has been forced to take radical steps. "My first challenge in 1971 was to organize a one-way system for the crowds. The situation was so bad, we had to use pre-recorded tapes in five languages warning people the doors would close on their gallery until congestion eased elsewhere. To prevent panic and fainting the tapes ex-



The long and winding queue in Viale Vaticano leading to the Vatican Museums entrance.

plained what was on the ceiling — a successful distraction."

Another innovation has been simple colour-coded itineraries that last from three-and-a-half to five-and-a-half hours. This colour system overcomes language barriers and makes it easy to pass through the labyrinth of rooms.

"I got the idea from a movie in a hospital where emergency

stretchers followed coloured lines on the floor," says Signor Persagati.

"But, there are so many enemies of art, although the real danger is from vandals. They damage works because it is an effective way of carrying their message to the world," Signor Persagati notes. "We have been lucky, we have only lost three fingers from statues, snapped off by the crowds."

Despite sophisticated

surveillance systems, judo-trained guards and plain-clothed *volanti*, he says: "You can't put everything under bullet-proof glass. The danger is always there." Pollution is another insidious foe.

With an entry fee of lire 8,000 (about £4) the Museum pays for its 300 staff and expenses, but has always relied on sponsors for new collections and restoration work.

Perhaps Signor Persagati's most controversial decision has been the £2.35 million restoration of the Sistine Chapel, which is almost complete. "Every change had to be documented, so filming was the obvious answer. I approached the major TV networks and after a year of negotiation, Nippon Television, NTV, agreed to sponsor the work in return for several years exclusive right to the reproduction of the cleaned image."

"We expected negative reactions because cleaning changed the concept of Michelangelo as a painter and destroyed the myth that he painted in dark, veiled colours. Some artists felt betrayed having grown to artistic maturity with a vision of Michelangelo in darkness. To discover this is not so is a shock. His colours had to show through the oil lit Chapel, as a candle in the darkness."

But, another unresolvable problem remains: how to keep silence in the packed Chapel. Fortunately, there are still a

Works intended to impress the gods

few ones of peace and quiet in the Museum, where groups on frantic agendas never stop. Galleries like the Gregorian Etruscan Museum attracts only 7 per cent of visitors and the beautiful Ethnological Museum a mere 4 per cent.

To wander alone through these collections makes the initial struggle worthwhile. The unique Regolini-Galassi collection from the Etruscan tombs at Cerveteri near Rome reveals gold jewellery, embossed thrones and funeral carts — all intended to impress the Gods.

"This section is vastly underrated because few people outside Italy are familiar with the Etruscan civilization," says Signor Persagati.

Contrasts within the Museum are extreme. A man dressed in a suit, hanging on a crucifix, against a depressing industrial backdrop dictates you are in the Museum of Modern Religious Art.

It is a shock to find 55 galleries of exceptional modern art amid the medieval opulence of the Borgia apartments adorned with frescoes by Pinturicchio.

However, by evening when the crowds are gone, Walter Persagati says it is a privilege to visit the rooms and Sistine Chapel alone. He also admits: "It is spooky. I feel all the works of art looking at me. They need to communicate. Art needs a partner, somebody to receive the message — works of art in a gallery without visitors are lost."

But, there is little danger of that, for with the sunrise comes mass tourism, no longer a blessing but the bane of this holy museum's life.

A sparkle for the rich, not the pompous



The Bulgari Empire: Francesco Trapani, chief executive, left, with Paolo Bulgari, president, in the centre and Nicola Bulgari, vice-president, right, above a pearl necklace in 18-carat gold with a heart-shaped emerald, sporting diamonds and emerald-cut rubies

Set above a simple white T-shirt an ancient Roman coin gleams darkly, centred in a coil of gold that snakes the throat. Glossy lozenges of amethyst, tourmaline and topaz punctuate fine chains of gold, whose links twist every now and then in artless knots. Worn as necklaces and bracelets they cover almost as much sleek suntan as the postage stamp bikini they accompany.

A charming lack of pomposity about precious jewellery has been displayed traditionally by Italian women (Catherine de Medici is said to have fed diamonds to her enemies) and is recognized worldwide as the trademark of one discreet jewellery emporium in Rome's Via Condotti, the home base of the Bulgari family and international headquarters.

By Liz Smith
Fashion Editor

Jewels to be worn as casually as blue jeans, chokers that are encrusted with tiny diamonds and support a giant cabochon gem, the profusion of heart-shaped stones that are now so fashionable everywhere, these are their specialties.

Just over a century after Sotirio Bulgari, a Greek silversmith from Ephesus, settled in Rome in 1881 selling finely engraved pieces from a cart on the Spanish Steps, his name is synonymous with a style steeped in the traditions of Ancient Greece and Rome, and synonymous with that studied ease of rich ornamentation that distinguishes Italian *alta moda*.

The expansion of his empire, masterminded by his two grandsons Paolo and Nicola, which began in the 1970s with the opening of Bulgari shops in Paris, Monte Carlo, New York and Milan finally reaches this country.

The opening of the first Bulgari shop in London next month, in that tiny ghetto of jewellers at the older end of Bond Street will be celebrated with a reception on November 21 at Goldsmiths Hall and an exhibition of the most prestigious pieces of contemporary Bulgari craftsmanship. The shop, like every other soothing Bulgari temple to the jewellers art around the world, has been designed by the architect Piero Sartogo.

The Bulgari make jewellery for contemporary women. Francesco Trapani, great grandson of the founder and managing director insists that Italian women do not keep their jewels locked in a safe. "We are a company that establishes what women wear today and every day," he says. "What we produce is what sets the fashion trends in jewellery around the world."

For every authentic Byzantine coin set by Bulgari surrounded by diamonds there must be hundreds stamped and charmed out by mass market jewellers. Their chokers, articulated in the same way as a petal pump bracelet (designer in Italian) and studded with their signature square-cut or domed cabochon cut stones are copied everywhere.

Bulgari pioneered the use of semi-precious stones mixed with diamonds, emeralds and rubies and invented the modern idiom that mixes steel with gold. Their disregard of the value of the raw materials they use produces unexpected and exciting results such as the gemmetal gleam of haematite side-by-side with mother of pearl in a gold necklace.

Modules of jade, turquoise, coral and steel are treated with the same respect as the finest diamonds. Rubies and emeralds are used as freely as pebbles. The jewellery is created by Italy's top craftsmen not only in the Bulgari studios in Rome, but in Florence, the birth place of the Italian Renaissance and the centre for the manufacture of jewellery today.

Although the family is known for its low-key private lifestyle — there are no Bulgari

palazzos or fancy yachts — they have paid the price of their success and wealth, which amounts to an annual turnover of \$100 million a year, by becoming the target of kidnappers.

In 1975 a \$7 million ransom was stamped up for Gianni Bulgari, the third brother of Nicola and Paolo. In 1983 a cousin, Signora Anna Bulgari Calissani and her son, Giorgio, were released only after the payment of \$4.2 million was paid to her kidnappers.

Another cousin, Marina Bulgari, who worked in the family firm from the age of nine, broke away to start her own business based in Geneva. Her collection is stamped with the Bulgari style, but cannot be sold using the family name and is known simply as Marina B.

The family's passion for antiquities, expressed in their most traditional designs, can be seen too in their splendid collection of silver and jade displayed in the marble temple in the Via Condotti.

Almost the end of the line for Italy's overnight designers

The natural aftermath of incineration is a hangover, and these days Italy's fashion industry is going through a period of malaise after ten years of unprecedented and euphoric boom, when it seemed as if anything could be sold, in unlimited quantities, at any price, writes Paul Bonaparte.

Today, competition from Europe, the US and developing countries has stepped up, while the brilliant image of "Made in Italy" designer products is now being dulled by hundreds of new "names" that have sprung up touting designer products, often not of the kind of quality and style that originated the boom of the late 1970s and early 80s.

The concept that the designer's signature, the "griffe" or "firma" is a guarantee of quality, style and prestige has become muddled and debased.

Many overnight designers would buy a few pages of advertising, call themselves "famous designers" and go on to sell their names for products that ranged from clothing to bathroom tiles, from cosmetics to washing machines, none of which they had produced themselves.

Over the past five years we have seen an enormous proliferation of "griffes", says Giancarlo Giammetti, chairman and partner of Valentino. "This has created confusion between the good 'griffes' and the shoddy ones."

Valentino has held its ground, commercially, although in general, business in the fashion world has suffered. But, I believe that this will prove to be a kind of healthy

Between 1975 and 1985 there was a staggering annual growth rate of over 18 per cent in sales and about 30 per cent in exports.

Those days are over. In more recent times, Istat, the national statistics authority, has indicated a fall in sales of 6.7 per cent.

Moreover, many of the smaller manufacturers use underpaid, unofficial labour that does not appear in the statistics but can only be estimated. Then there are the big textile groups like the Gruppo Finanziario Tessile, Benetton and Marzotto that produce and sell all over the world, and effectively operate as multinationals.

Clothing, textiles and shoes are Italy's biggest single export, with foreign sales last year of lire 30,400 billion (£12,667 million) compared to imports of only lire 11,000 billion (£4,583 million).

The long established top designers, the "Magnificent Seven", Valentino, Armani, Versace, Ferré, Krizia, Missoni and the Fendi sisters may have had a few minor setbacks, but they are substantially holding on to their share of a solid luxury market.

When the Italian fashion industry seems to be hurting is among the hundreds of self-styled designers that could apparently do no wrong until a couple of years ago. The GFT, Gruppo Finanziario Tessile, is the industrial group behind names like Valentino, Armani, Ungaro, Montana, and has annual sales of almost lire 1,000 billion (£420 million).

Says Marco Rivetti, GFT president: "One of the heaviest burdens that we are carrying from the period 1975-1983 is the crowd of characters that jumped on the train when it was running. People who, if there had not been the fashion boom, would have been street cleaners or chiropodists."

Many, in fact, seem strangely pleased with this crisis, since it will result in a great deal of weeding-out both in the fashion business itself and in the vast, top-heavy machine of advertising and promotion that in recent years had built itself on the fashion world.

At the time, Signor Giammetti was dismissed as an envious and slightly deranged rabble-rouser, attacking those Milan designers who were making more money than himself. Yet today, perhaps in more measured terms, many people are beginning to agree with him.

Statistics are hard to come by in a business that is varied, fragmented and in some cases part of the "black" economy.

One of Italy's "Magnificent Seven": Giorgio Armani

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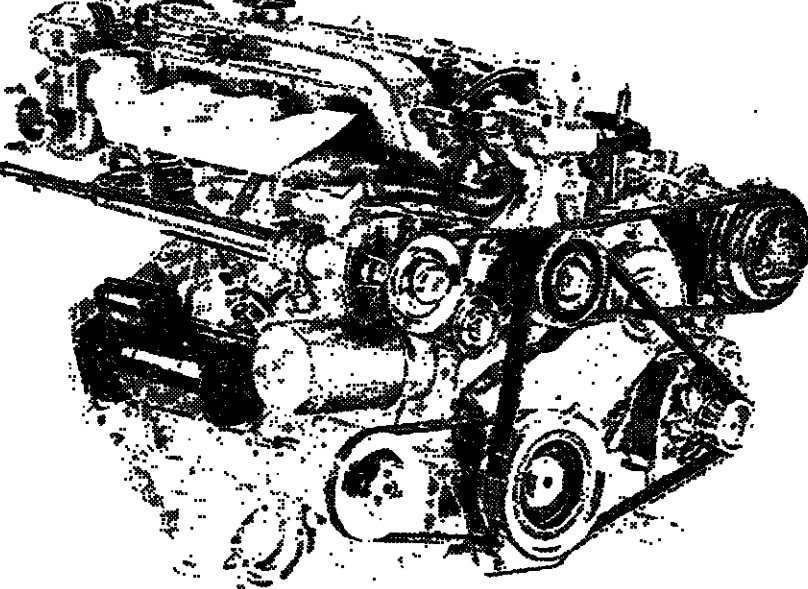
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The range of automotive engines are founded on the successful HR/VM SYSTEM series and are the fruit of many years of research and study which has taken them to the apex of diesel engine manufacture worldwide. The extremely wide and diversified range, from 50 HP to 170HP, comprises 3, 4, 5 and 6 cylinder derivatives in naturally aspirated, turbocharged and turbocharged intercooled forms.

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The sales of new engines has risen by 80 percent with the top seller being the SUN series of engines.

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ITALY/8

FOCUS

No junk please, we're Italian

The pot of the Italian food industry is incessantly on the boil, but no one yet knows who will be the master cooks in 1992. The next stir of the cauldron should be a forthcoming government decision (possibly this November) on whether SME is considered of strategic importance for the public sector or whether it may be privatized.

SME (Società Meridionale Finanziaria) was an electricity utility nationalized in 1963 and made into the holding company for the food subsidiaries of the state-owned IRI (Istituto per la Ricostruzione Industriale) group.

Strong in canned, processed and frozen foods, confectionery and ice cream, SME's brand names include Cirio, Bertolli, de Rica, Motta, Alemagna and Pavesi. If its motorway restaurants (80 per cent of the market) and GS supermarkets are added, it claims number one place in the food sector.

SME's future has been uncertain since spring 1985, when Carlo de Benedetti of Olivetti signed a document with IRI chairman Romano Prodi to buy the then ailing group, in order to absorb it into Industrie Buitoni Perugina (IBP) which he owned at the time. But the sale was blocked on political grounds by the Socialist leader Bettino Craxi.

Signor de Benedetti went to

law, arguing that the document signed by him and IRI was a valid commitment to sell, but the court eventually decided against him and he had to admit defeat. Since then SME has been restored to profitability and its future has come up again for discussion by the coalition parties.

This time officials at SME believe the Government may give the green light. If so, there is already a strong Italian group waiting in the wings with an offer. IAR (Industria Alimentare Riunita) is a consortium between Barilla (pasta and biscuits), Ferrero (confectionery), the Catholic co-operative movement, and Silvio Berlusconi, the leading private TV magnate.

Signor Berlusconi recently bought from Ferruzzi, the Standa retail network including its supermarkets and, significantly, is a good friend of Signor Craxi.

Those favouring the deal see it as a defence against the foreigner. Italy's food industry is extremely vulnerable. It is unable to feed the 56 million population, for the food deficit in the balance of payments has grown in recent years as large as the oil deficit.

In the economy it is the third most important industry, after the mechanical and textile sectors. But it is fragmented with 38,000 firms employing nearly 380,000 people — an average of 10 per

firm — most of which are too small to spend on research.

Though some family firms, like Fiorucci with ham salami and Lavazza with coffee, are innovative and have established firm market positions, only a handful such as Sme and Eridania (sugar) of the Ferruzzi group operate on a scale comparable to multinationals.

On the world scene, firms bigger than these have not proved immune to take-over bids. The press periodically takes up the cry that the Italian stomach risks being colonized by multinationals. "The foreigners have not yet won. Italy is not already conquered," Pietro Barilla of the family firm and chairman of IAR commented to a weekly magazine.

"But, we cannot hide the truth. We are at the last ditch." Many foreigners are already well entrenched in different sectors.

This year Nestlé bought IBP (pasta, biscuits, pre-cooked foods and confectionery) including "Baci" chocolates) from Signor de Benedetti who needed resources in his struggle for Société Générale de Belgique, and was happy to leave the food sector.

More mergers, take-overs and rationalization moves are to be expected before the European Community barriers come down in 1992.

John Earle



An immediate choice: Traditional sausage making in Ferrara, above, and local reaction as protestors gather outside the first McDonald's fast food restaurant in Rome.



Bologna marks 900 years of study

The award of honorary degrees to personalities like Mr. Alexander Dubcek the dissident Czechoslovak Communist, has given a contemporary ideological tinge to the nine hundredth anniversary celebrations by the western world's oldest university Bologna, writes John Earle.

Ceremonies have already been held for others so honoured including President Cossiga, King Juan Carlos of Spain, the Greek Prime Minister Mr. Alexander Papandreu and (in his absence) the imprisoned South African nationalist Mr. Nelson Mandela, while a date is still to be fixed for President Alfonsín of Argentina. Mr. Dubcek is to receive the degree from the Faculty of Political Science on November 12.

The theme running through these awards is a commitment, in one way or other to democracy, liberty and civil rights. The theme of liberty will produce a meeting with French personalities next spring linking with the bicentenary of France's revolution. The Bolognesi hope that President Mitterrand will be present.

The university adds a student population of 60,000 to the town's 450,000 inhabitants. To the authorities at Bologna the touchstone is that teaching should be outside the



The Archiginnasio in Bologna, Europe's oldest university

framework of the church and independent of both the religious and political power.

There is evidence of masters of grammar, rhetoric and logic studying and teaching Roman Law in the latter 11th century. Though 1088 is based more on supposition than fact it places Bologna before the Sorbonne, Oxford and Cambridge.

Professor Fabio Roveri-Monaco the rector has written, "the studium at Bologna is the oldest in the western world. Indeed we should even say the oldest in the world...there is no doubt that

the concept of a university was born in Bologna". Among its students were Dante, Petrarch, Copernicus and Erasmus. Two future Popes, Alexander III and Innocent IV, were on the teaching staff before being called to Rome.

The programme for the celebrations, lasting from 1987 till next spring, fills a 112 page book. There is an exhaustive list — now mostly past — of ceremonies, conferences, seminars, lectures, backed by exhibitions, theatrical performances and concerts.

On a hilltop in Montalcino, where rules are strict and some traditions never die

October is a busy month for Italian farmers — trailers piled high with grapes trundle to and from the vineyard wine press as the last of the wine harvest is hurriedly snatched from impending rain storms which usually threaten by mid-October.

"Italian red wines cannot compete yet with the legendary French Burgundies," says Paolo Trimani whose father carries on the family tradition of running the best stocked wine shop in Rome. "But Italian whites are supreme and easily comparable with the best of the French."

A quick glance round the cellar-like shop shows that while the best and most obvious selection of reds such as Barolo, Barbera, Nebiolo and Catinara all from north eastern Piedmont, are well represented — so are the lesser known but excellent wines like Aglianico del Vulture from the high and dry southern region of Basilicata.

The unusual also makes an appearance, like the red wine from Lazio (the region of Rome) Torre Ercolano, first invented by a music teacher in Anagni, 40 miles south of Rome, who mixed the unruly local Cesanese grape with Merlot and Cabernet grapes.

Since the disgrace brought to Italian wine five years ago when methyl alcohol was found in Piedmontese and a few other red wines, to recuperate their damaged reputation Italian wine growers have put greater efforts into making a genuine and if possible a superior product.

Rules are stricter, government monitoring is closely applied and the introduction of a DOCG label *Denominazione di Origine Controllata Garantita*, an even higher qualification than the DOC label applied to good quality wines, is another sign of Italy's striving for excellence in the wine field.

Rules were strict, however, even in times when wine was indeed an artisan's process. In 1716 the Duke of Tuscany issued an ordinance which strongly delineated the limits within which four most important Tuscan wines were to be grown — Chianti, Pomino, Val d'Arno di Sopra and Carmignano. Farmers who tried to grow their grapes outside the geographical limits were threatened with severe fines and loss of business.

Today the limits are almost identical and the wines have kept their excellence. Carmignano, for example, less known than the ubiquitous Chianti, but nonetheless a classic Italian red, was already appreciated by Cosimo de Medici III who to safeguard its purity emitted the zoning decree in 1716.

While Piedmontese Barolo is acknowledged as the King of Italian wines, arguably Italy's best wine is the legendary Brunello of Montalcino. Invented 100 years ago by Tuscan landowner Forruccio Biondi Santi from his vines of San Giovese grapes, Brunello is one of the few wines made solely from this grape.

San Giovese is a basic ingredient of several Italian reds including Chianti, but in the small area around the medieval hilltop town of Montalcino, Brunello is grown by about 40 careful wine growers who produce only small amounts (between 3 and 12 hectares each) of San Giovese Grosso.

The Biondi Santi tradition continues with Signor Ferruccio's grandson and Franco Biondi Santi who personally tends and follows his 12 hectares (about 25 acres) of Brunello grapes.

"We are very strict in our selection of grapes to begin with — around July the thinning out process can mean we throw away half the crop in order to give greater strength to the other half," explains Franco Biondi Santi. He also adds that his grapes grow as naturally as possible — his family has always stunned pesti-

cides, chemicals or even too fertile soil. The aging process is important — no Brunello can be sold on the market until it has aged 5 years — the wine transforms from the dense violet blue and chestnut taste of newly picked grapes through a variety of shades of ruby to the garnet rich full taste of maturity.

Maturity, according to the year, can mean anything from five to 100 years. The Biondi Santi family have three bottles left of the original 1888 vintage.

"This is for my own consumption," says Biondi Santi, lovingly holding up one of the bottles to the light. "To celebrate the birth of the first male child of my son."

Janet Stobart

ROME

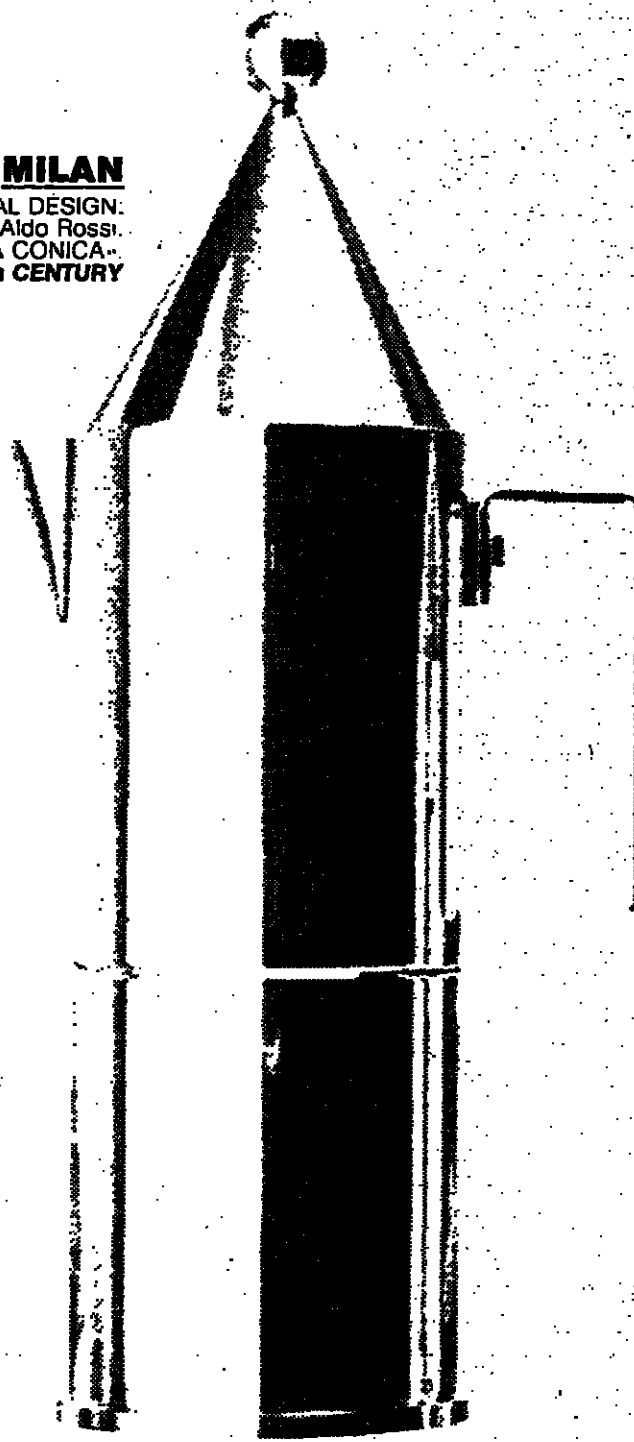
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Continued from page 24

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HORIZONS

Mapping out a career with the forces of law

An increasing trend among graduates is for them to serve in the police; there are about 6,800 in England and Wales.

Some graduates join the police via the graduate entry scheme; others come through the standard method of entry. A few — such as Brian Hayes, Chief Constable of Surrey, who went to university as an inspector and obtained a first-class honours degree in modern languages — are awarded police scholarships. Some study for external degrees while serving.

A degree does not guarantee accelerated promotion; that has to be earned. All entrants have initially to serve as constables. Those with good academic ability, allied to common sense and operational ability, and who have passed their sergeant's examination, can expect to reach the rank of chief inspector within two years of completing the special course at the police staff college. All four of Mr Hayes's senior team, himself, his deputy and two assistant chief constables, are graduates.

Mr Hayes sees an increasing trend towards violence within society. Unfortunately, he points out, police officers are spread too thinly. They feel exposed because of the violence and cannot get the support and back-up they need.

"There has been an unprecedented series of legislative changes, and we have had to train the police to

The prospects for graduates in the police force are good, says Joan Llewellyn Owens

deal with all these new Acts. As the Government floods us with new legislation, it pressurises us to make financial cuts. So we have to tighten our belts as demands are increasing.

"We could do a lot more if the pressures were not so great on our resources," he emphasises. "Our main overall problem is lack of manpower."

Mr Hayes believes the police service should, like the Armed Forces, have been exempt from the Sex Discrimination Act. "Prior to that, we had specialist women police departments; yet there is even more need today to have trained women officers to deal with youngsters and with families."

Not that he is in any way disatisfied with women in the force. He says they are at least as good as and often better than the men in academic background, confidence and maturity. Physically, however, they cannot do everything, and in riot control they are likely to weaken the unit within which they are working.

Mr Hayes joined the Metropolitan Police at 19, and has had a varied career, including a period

on anti-terrorist and special branch work. For two years, when direct rule was introduced in Northern Ireland, he was looking after Lord Whiteclaw.

When he became chief constable six years ago, his main priority was to get the whole force to understand his priorities and to pull in the same direction. As part of that policy, he interchanges people from one specialist department to another, so that all understand what the others are doing. Good communication, up and down, is fundamental to that understanding.

He has introduced many changes in the interests of efficiency, including a participative management system, which involves all ranks in submitting their views of the way the force should be run.

Throughout the county, he has brought in a standard system of policing, with a group of officers under an inspector having 24-hour responsibility for a small area. As a result, the public gets to know them and vice versa.

He has also set up crime prevention panels, in which members of the public and local agencies assist the police to prevent and attack crime.

For further information, write to the Police Graduate Liaison Officer, Room 553, Home Office, Queen Anne's Gate, London SW1H 9AT



Out and about: Mr Brian Hayes, Chief Constable of Surrey, with Special Constable Tessa Little and PC Colin Ruane in Womersley, Surrey

The problems of youth in a violent society

A survey into public disorder outside metropolitan areas, carried out for the Association of Chief Police Officers in England and Wales, paints a worrying picture of some areas of provincial life, especially in southern England, Joan Llewellyn Owens writes.

Brian Hayes, Surrey's chief constable, who undertook the survey, speaks of the violence and anti-authoritarianism now prevalent among some of the younger generation in society.

"Experts tell us that there has always been a problem," he says, "but in 30 years of policing I have seen it change, and it has got worse in the past six years."

"There are many more violent offences against the person — waggings, rapes and sexual offences, with a 25 per cent increase in this county last year and a national increase of around 20 per cent. Coupled with that, you get fighting in the street, alcohol-related violence."

He considers that many young people are too affluent, indisciplined, and take too much alcohol. He is, however, a supporter of longer drinking hours; previously, people tended to cram too much drinking into a short period. He is also in favour of the Home Secretary's move to speed up prosecution for those who indulge in drink and violence.

"If you compare us with countries like France, Spain and Italy, where family units are still strong,

they don't have the same problems; they don't have the vandalism you can plant flowers in the middle of the town in the assurance that they will remain. I detect a lack of civic pride and a lack of national pride."

Mr Hayes feels that in the longer term, parents and schools have to accept their responsibilities. "Then if we target the troublemakers in the pubs and deal out punishment, the consolidated effort will have its effect."

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Are you a fully qualified accountant seeking a responsible position in a rapidly growing concern? Then read on.

The Network Group of Housing Associations, based in North West London, develop and manage a wide range of housing schemes from rented accommodation to low cost sales. In preparation for a change in emphasis from public sector finance to private finance in April 1989, the Group is seeking a Group Deputy Financial Controller, to take charge of the computerised accounting and information flows of that part of the group which handles sales and part sales, and to deputise for the Financial Controller in matters affecting the group. Qualifications are essential; knowledge of housing association finance would be an advantage.

The Group is an equal opportunities employer.

For a full job description and application form, please contact Julie Amber, Network Group Personnel Officer, Brett House, Park Parade, London NW10 4HT. Tel: 01-961-4804.

Closing date November 14th, 1988.

NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR VOCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

c £9391 - £12505 pa
incl London Weighting

The National Council for Vocational Qualifications wishes to appoint an Administrative Officer at its Headquarters in London.

The Administrative Officers work closely with Development Officers in the National Council's Accreditation and Quality Assurance Directorates. They must also establish sound working relationships with senior representatives drawn from a wide range of industrial, commercial, training and government organisations.

The person appointed will have a clear confident use of English both verbal and written and be able to assimilate technical terminology.

Applicants, aged 22 - 25 years, should be graduates, with an interest in vocational education and training.

Please send your CV, together with a short covering letter saying how you meet the requirements to:

The Personnel Officer, NCVQ,

222 Euston Road, London NW1 2BY.

COUNCIL FOR PROFESSIONS SUPPLEMENTARY TO MEDICINE REGISTRAR DESIGNATE

Applications are invited for the post of Registrar Designate. The Council, under the aegis of the Privy Council, is responsible through the Professions Supplementary to Medicine Act 1960 for Statutory Registration, and is the co-ordinating body for seven Registration Boards (Chiropractors, Dietitians, Medical Laboratory Technicians, Occupational Therapists, Orthoptists, Physiotherapists and Radiographers) with a current total of 76,000 registrants. The Registrar is the Chief Officer of the Council and its Boards. The Council is an independent body financed entirely by income from registration fees.

The successful candidate will be required to commence employment on 3 April 1989 and will assume the position of Registrar upon the retirement in the late autumn of 1989 of the present incumbent.

The person appointed will have had administrative and financial experience at a senior level, and be capable of acting on behalf of the Council in relation to professional bodies, educational institutions and government departments.

Salary within the range £29,900 - £33,300, (including London Weighting).

Further details and application form available from Miss Roffe, CPBM, Park House, 184 Kensington Park Road, London SE11 4BU, tel. no. 01-582 0886, ext. 28.

CLOSING DATE: 18 NOVEMBER 1988

DONCASTER DISTRICT MANAGER

(FIELDWORK AND COMMUNITY SERVICES)
£14,559 to £15,921

The Social Services Department is well advanced in its preparation for the future, is implementing major new service developments and making more effective use of its existing resources. The District Manager will play a key part in these changes, offering to the right person considerable job satisfaction.

YOU need to have proven success in social work and management with at least six years working experience following qualification. THE DISTRICT covers the areas of Bentley, Askern and Wheatley, a mixture of town centre, mining communities and rural areas. The total population is approximately 55,000.

DEVELOPMENTS

Major developments in services for elderly and physically handicapped people are being implemented to bring together a District based team with specialists in social work, domiciliary care and occupational therapy/aids and adaptations. A keen interest in meeting the needs of the area, once identified, will be looked for.

Two well established child care teams already work in the district. They will be managed by senior social workers reporting to the District Manager, and are being extended to cover extra child abuse work.

THE DEPARTMENT

Field social work is provided through five Districts. There are specialist sections for hospital, homebased, under fives, court and community development work. The social care division provides a wide range of residential and day care facilities for each client group. The Department has stability and development possibilities in both professional and management training and provides a good level of service for this large Metropolitan District.

Informal enquiries to Mr I Cartwright, Director of Social Services, or Mr J N Bromley, Deputy Director of Social Services.

For application form and information please contact:

The Recruitment Officer
Personnel Section
Chief Executive's Office
2 Priory Place, Doncaster
South Yorkshire DN1 1BN

Telephone: Doncaster (0302) 734028

Closing date: November 9th, 1988

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BASILDON, ESSEX

Variety and flexibility in a stimulating environment.

Basildon New Town is now well established as the busy social and commercial centre of the South East. Our housing stock is large and varied (14,000 properties) - to ensure it's maintained in good order we're looking for an Assistant Contracts Surveyor (H.160) to join the professional team in our Housing Maintenance Section.

For a younger person it could be the ideal opportunity to gain valuable experience in a major organisation, which may considerably improve career prospects. Every encouragement is given to study for future qualifications. The role could also suit a more mature person (possibly approaching retirement) or, job sharers.

As one of two similar posts, this position will be responsible to the Contract Surveyor and will act jointly in his absence. Your experience must have included contract procedures, covering schedules of Rates and Fixed Sum Tendering, together with the preparation of specification, valuations and reports. Familiarity with current safety regulations and the ability to motivate and liaise with contractors and other staff is also important.

You'll be inspecting properties, preparing specifications, supervising contractors, and co-ordinating the work of various organisations; covering such improvements as re-roofing and kitchen refurbishments as well as the installation of updated heating systems.

In addition to salary, benefits include:

- Lunchtime Vouchers worth £10 per month.
- A car allowance and loan facilities.
- A minimum of 27 days holiday.
- Housing and/or generous relocation assistance if required.

Further information and an application form can be obtained from and to be returned to:

Personnel Section, Commission for the New Towns, Glen House, Stag Place, VICTORIA, London SW1E 5AL. Telephone: 01-828 7722 (Ext. 319/368).

Closing Date: 10th November, 1988

Cable Authority

SECRETARY TO THE AUTHORITY

The Cable Authority is a small body at the centre of many of the most exciting developments in television. It is facing an expanding franchising programme, and prospective changes in the legal framework.

The Secretary to the Authority is responsible for the licensing process and for meeting the demands of a changing scene as well as for servicing the regular meetings of the Authority and managing the Authority's office.

This is a challenging post in a fast-moving environment and there is plenty of scope for the post holder to make a mark. Interested candidates should contact the Director General of the Authority, Jon Davey, for more information. Applications should be received by 8th November.

Cable Authority, Gillingham House, 38-44 Gillingham Street, London SW1V 1HU. Tel: 01-821 6161.

Opening Verse can strike right note

By Maudlin

Opening Verse, who disappointed when second favourite for the Three Chimneys Dewhurst Stakes at Newmarket earlier this month, can redeem his reputation by capturing the Providence Stakes over six furlongs at Redcar today.

Sheikh Mohammed's colt could never get in a telling blow against the dead-heaters Prince Of Dances and Scenic at Newmarket, and indeed, only beat one home, his stable companion Semoan, who edged badly after making the earlier running.

Previously, Opening Verse registered three good victories at Headquarters. He impressed when beating a big field of maidens first time out on the July course and followed up with an emphatic victory over the highly-regarded Begon in the seven furlong Somerset Tattersall Stakes.

He edged badly right that day when taking the lead, and it will be interesting to see how he proves in today's less competitive test.

The six furlong may suit him better and he is endowed with good speed which should enable him to outpace Cardinal and a disappointing favourite, at Postcard, and Folkestone winner Ultra Light.

Henry Cecil should also be on the mark in the Links Maiden Stakes with another Sheikh Mohammed colt, Pevens, who, following a creditable effort behind Bourne Topky at York, has a fair opportunity of opening his account. Michael Stoute's Donysa, a fair third at Newcastle, looks the danger.

Mel Brittain may have the answer to the tricky Ganton Handicap with Bena Celeste, who comfortably beat Greenhills Pride at Leicester a week ago.

However, the best bet at this meeting looks to be Curicle to defy top weight in the Levy Road Handicap.



Fulke Johnson Houghton, who trails Curicle

This lightly-framed filly hails from Fulke Johnson Houghton's in-form Blewbury stable and was mightily impressive when winning an amateur riders' event at Ayr last month.

She had today's rival Ben's Birdie 11 lengths back in third place that day and although the Mark Tompkins veteran is considerably better off at the weights this time I am confident Curicle can confirm the form.

Curicle has twice been a beaten favourite since that Ayr success, but back to 14 miles and with the capable John Reid riding, he is napped to regain the winning thread.

At Nottingham, all eyes will be on Noble Haven, who

attempts to give John Winter a farewell winner in the Lester Piggott Final Handicap.

This is Winter's last runner before his return from training and his grey filly certainly has a sporting chance judged on her recent second to Toohami at Wolverhampton.

The Manton trained two-year-old Observation Post can concede weight all round in the Whiston Manor Stud Stakes.

Despite running green, this son of Shinkley Heights ran on strongly to land a division of the Westley Stakes at the Newmarket Dewhurst meeting and has plenty of scope for improvement.

The East Midlands Nursery may go to Paul Cole's representative, Run Don't Fly, who does not look badly handicapped on his running behind Lily's Lover at Goodwood.

Newmarket is strongly represented in the Full Choke Handicap, and I just prefer the Andross gelding Camille to Mick Ryan's dual winner Silks Domino. Although no match for Dam Busters last time out, the Robert Williams three-year-old had previously won in good style over two miles of today's course and will relish today's test of stamina.

At Plimpton, Rowland Jewels, who last time out at Newton Abbot, can recoup the losses in the Sheeky's Restaurant Novices Chase.

At Nottingham, all eyes will be on Noble Haven, who

Maktoom maintains home-bred success

Headman Al-Maktoom has enjoyed considerable success with his home-bred juveniles this season and the latest to win was Wishah, who outstayed her rivals in good style in the first division of the Woodborough Maiden Stakes at Nottingham yesterday.

Wishah, getting first run on her opponents in the straight, steadily drew clear to win by seven lengths from Kaurus.

Another Leach, one of the horses who has been a consistent performer in the Woodborough Maiden Stakes, was the favourite, but was out of the running in the second division.

opposition into the ground for a comfortable victory in the Woodborough EBF Stakes. Armenia, the 7-2 joint favourite, chased Amber Leach into the straight but was unable to make good on her own form.

Known Chatter who took second place going into the final furlong.

Miller's Galt, the 6-5 favourite, proved a big disappointment in the Woodborough Maiden Stakes as his stablemate made all the running to win by two lengths from Sanyuki.

RED CAR	
Selections	
By Mandarin	By Our Newmarket Correspondent
1.15 Salinan	1.15 Regal Lad
1.45 My Deyra	1.45 Against All Odds
2.15 Pevens	2.15 PLEUS (nap)
3.15 Opening Verse	2.45 Opening Verse
3.45 Time To Go Home	3.45 Collected
4.15 CURRICLE (nap)	4.15 Ben's Birdie

By Michael Seely
2.45 OPENING VERSE (nap), 3.45 TIME TO GO HOME.
The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 2.15 PLEUS.

Going: good to soft Draw: 56-71, high numbers are best

1.15 EBF MAIDEN STAKES (2-Y-O: £3,385; 7f) (20 runners)	
1 (1) 00000 CARBON TRAIL (5) (R. Bannister) M. Macaulay 5-0	71
2 (2) 00000 CARBON TRAIL (5) (R. Bannister) M. Macaulay 5-0	71
3 (3) 00000 CARBON TRAIL (5) (R. Bannister) M. Macaulay 5-0	71
4 (4) 00000 CARBON TRAIL (5) (R. Bannister) M. Macaulay 5-0	71
5 (5) 00000 CARBON TRAIL (5) (R. Bannister) M. Macaulay 5-0	71
6 (6) 00000 CARBON TRAIL (5) (R. Bannister) M. Macaulay 5-0	71
7 (7) 00000 CARBON TRAIL (5) (R. Bannister) M. Macaulay 5-0	71
8 (8) 00000 CARBON TRAIL (5) (R. Bannister) M. Macaulay 5-0	71
9 (9) 00000 CARBON TRAIL (5) (R. Bannister) M. Macaulay 5-0	71
10 (10) 00000 CARBON TRAIL (5) (R. Bannister) M. Macaulay 5-0	71
11 (11) 00000 CARBON TRAIL (5) (R. Bannister) M. Macaulay 5-0	71
12 (12) 00000 CARBON TRAIL (5) (R. Bannister) M. Macaulay 5-0	71
13 (13) 00000 CARBON TRAIL (5) (R. Bannister) M. Macaulay 5-0	71
14 (14) 00000 CARBON TRAIL (5) (R. Bannister) M. Macaulay 5-0	71
15 (15) 00000 CARBON TRAIL (5) (R. Bannister) M. Macaulay 5-0	71
16 (16) 00000 CARBON TRAIL (5) (R. Bannister) M. Macaulay 5-0	71
17 (17) 00000 CARBON TRAIL (5) (R. Bannister) M. Macaulay 5-0	71
18 (18) 00000 CARBON TRAIL (5) (R. Bannister) M. Macaulay 5-0	71
19 (19) 00000 CARBON TRAIL (5) (R. Bannister) M. Macaulay 5-0	71
20 (20) 00000 CARBON TRAIL (5) (R. Bannister) M. Macaulay 5-0	71

BETTING: 13-8 Salinan, 5-1 Opening Verse, 5-1 Curicle, 10-1 Ben's Birdie, 12-1 others.

1987: NO CORRESPONDING RACE

FORM BROODMARE ANGLADE made a promising debut in her first race when she beat a field of 13 in a Leicester maiden (10 furlongs) on the 13th of September. She was ridden by G. A. Galt, last time at Postcard (5 furlongs) with UNPAID WEST (R. Bannister) and CHC CARBON TRAIL (5 furlongs) in the same race.

REGAL LAD (10 furlongs) of 23, being in touch on the 13th of September (R. Bannister) and CHC CARBON TRAIL (5 furlongs) in the same race.

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2.45 PROVIDER STAKES (2-Y-O: £2,683; 6f) (11 runners)

1 (1) 00000 CARBON TRAIL (5) (R. Bannister) M. Macaulay 5-0	71
2 (2) 00000 CARBON TRAIL (5) (R. Bannister) M. Macaulay 5-0	71
3 (3) 00000 CARBON TRAIL (5) (R. Bannister) M. Macaulay 5-0	71
4 (4) 00000 CARBON TRAIL (5) (R. Bannister) M. Macaulay 5-0	71
5 (5) 00000 CARBON TRAIL (5) (R. Bannister) M. Macaulay 5-0	71
6 (6) 00000 CARBON TRAIL (5) (R. Bannister) M. Macaulay 5-0	71
7 (7) 00000 CARBON TRAIL (5) (R. Bannister) M. Macaulay 5-0	71
8 (8) 00000 CARBON TRAIL (5) (R. Bannister) M. Macaulay 5-0	71
9 (9) 00000 CARBON TRAIL (5) (R. Bannister) M. Macaulay 5-0	71
10 (10) 00000 CARBON TRAIL (5) (R. Bannister) M. Macaulay 5-0	71
11 (11) 00000 CARBON TRAIL (5) (R. Bannister) M. Macaulay 5-0	71

BETTING: 5-4 Opening Verse, 4-1 Curicle, 5-1 Ben's Birdie, 10-1 Ben's Birdie, 12-1 others.

Tomorrow, the BOA elects its officers for a new term. David Miller assesses the candidates

Experience favours Gold and Croker

The successful reintroduction of a British football team into the Olympic Games is one side-issue of tomorrow's election of officers for the British Olympic Association (BOA). It may have some bearing on the voting to decide whether Sir Arthur Gold should replace Charles Palmer as chairman, and whether Ted Croker should become vice-chairman in succession to Gold.

FIFA, bargaining from strength as representatives of the best-attended Olympic sport, is likely to win the eligibility controversy with the International Olympic Committee (IOC), and to continue to exclude senior professionals. It would be impossible, for instance, for the full professional teams of Europe to play simultaneously in the qualifying competitions of the European Championship and the Olympic Games.

It therefore becomes increasingly important for Britain to consider re-entry of a "junior" joint team, having withdrawn as amateurs following the 1972 Olympic qualifying competition. Fifa's proposed under-23 tournament offers a valuable stepping stone towards World Cup teams.

Whether Britain's football involvement is desirable is something that will require careful negotiation at both domestic and international level. At the heart of tomorrow's elections is the need for the BOA to raise its level of international recognition, experience and respect in the growing professionalism of the Olympic movement.



Palmer: a man of his time

Charles Palmer, the present chairman, has been a man of his time. He emerged, through extensive first-hand experience in judo, into administration in the late Sixties and early Seventies, as a post-establishment figure who had the interest of competitors at heart. He helped to bring the conventional BOA up to date.

In the past eight or 10 years, however, the world of Olympic sport has moved on from introspective nationalism to a more difficult and complex portfolio of multi-national relationships, in which Palmer has not always been seen to advantage. At the same time, he has experienced some domestic stress, with BOA staff, medical advisers and some individual sports federations. This is why he has been opposed at the elections of 1984 and again now.

During the Games in Seoul there were some unpublicized differences of opinion on policy within the BOA.



Gold: international reputation

Gold has agreed to be nominated on the understanding that he would serve for four years until handing over to a younger successor. The rival candidates to Croker are Peter Coul, from rowing, a QC who chaired the recent inquiry into drugs instigated by the British Amateur Athletic Board, and Eileen Gray from cycling.

The next four years will be a critical period for the IOC: in its reaction to the Ben Johnson scandal and its establishing of a system of random drug testing outside competition. Gold's leadership in this field alone could help to consolidate any wavering international views on the need for relentless pursuit of the most dangerous phenomenon in sport, a campaign that is still taking root.

Croker has retired as general secretary of the Football Association, and in spite of recent surgery for cancer is in good spirits and healthy. He is assured, as anyone of 64. His domestic experience of the parallel requirements of a large amateur membership and sophisticated professionalism, together with knowledge of how tactfully to

initiate anti-drugs controls, are Gold's strengths. He has studiously avoided any electioneering, and adroitly sums up his view of the BOA's role in a sentence: the servant of Olympic sport rather than the master. It is a mood echoed by Dick Palmer, who is widely respected overseas and could be lost by the BOA to an IOC appointment.

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handle the geo-politically sensitive rivalries of international groups, could make him a suitable understudy to Gold.

"In the Olympic movement today there is a very professional aspect," Croker said, "and this has to be recognized and accommodated. Maybe my experience in this field could help. I also feel the British have to think again fairly quickly about an Olympic (football) team and if the principle can be settled, the practical problems could be managed. We ought not to miss out on this tournament."

He has in mind the possibility of a neutral foreign manager to resolve selection rivalries. Jojo Havard, the president of FIFA, has already assured the four home associations that a joint Olympic team would not jeopardize their individual FIFA membership.

The voting tomorrow is, as always in such circumstances, unpredictable. In 1984, Charles Palmer had a narrow margin over Gold on the second vote after Mary Glen Haig was eliminated. But Palmer's personal chairmanship has eroded his power base, which will be led as usual by weightlifting and judo.

A straw poll suggests that Gold can expect at least half the 23 votes and Palmer a quarter, with the other 25 per cent uncertain. Even if the floating vote were to go wholly with Palmer, which is unlikely, Gold is expected to win: maybe narrowly, maybe with something to spare.

PARALYMPIC GAMES

Handicapped lay strong claim to equal recognition

From a Correspondent Seoul

Amid fireworks and fanfare, the flame of the VIII Paralympic Games was extinguished yesterday as 3,200 athletes from 60 nations said farewell to the most successful sports meeting for the handicapped.

Yesterday's closing ceremonies were as lavish as those for the Olympic Games here, reinforcing the goal that the Paralympics should be taken as seriously as what some handicapped athletes jokingly referred to as the "warm-up games". Despite some organizational foul-ups, the Seoul Paralympics set a precedent.

The Koreans have established the fact that the Paralympics are on par with the Olympics. Colin Moynihan, the Minister for Sport, said here on a four-day visit. "It's long overdue, but this means future Paralympics will have to match the new expectations. It will be topped by those who follow."

For Britain, the Games ended under the full moon with a gold in the marathon for Stephen Brunt, of Bristol. Brunt, who is totally blind, even ran the last 7 kilometres alone after his sighted guide was unable to press on.

"I just followed the lights on the road," Brunt said. "The actual euphoria came this morning when I woke to find it had rained overnight. It was superb conditions for a British runner: a lot of people had hoped for glorious sunshine, but the Gods smiled on us."

Brunt finished in 2hr 35min 21sec, 22 seconds off his personal best. After receiving his gold medal, he jogged a lap around the Olympic stadium with the Frenchman and New Zealanders who finished behind him.

Mark Farnell took a silver in the marathon yesterday, while the Britons, Jimmy Sande and Gerry McConnell, won gold and silver respectively in the cross-country race for cerebral palsy.

Final medals table

(Leading positions)

United States	92	81	85	258
West Germany	77	84	48	209
France	71	66	51	188
China	54	42	57	153
Sweden	45	48	49	142
South Korea	45	38	25	108
Denmark	40	36	19	94
Australia	30	23	29	82
Poland	22	26	34	81
Soviet Union	21	18	15	54
Spain	18	15	12	45
China	17	17	9	43
Italy	16	13	17	45
Belgium	15	17	9	41
Israel	15	13	18	46
Austria	13	7	16	35

Late on Sunday, blind British judo fighters, Simon Jackson and Neil Shaw, won gold medals. Also in judo for the blind, David Hurst won a silver while Alan Storton won bronze.

Britain finished third in the overall medals count, behind the United States and West Germany, with 62 gold, 66 silver and 51 bronze medals. Some American athletes turned in remarkable performances. Dennis Oehler, 28, who lost his lower right leg in an car accident, ran the 100 metres sprint in 11.1 seconds, less than two seconds behind the pace set by Ben Johnson on the same track at the Olympics. The blind swimmer, Trisha Zorn, set an unprecedented 12 gold medals.

But Britain had its own superb athletes, such as Robin Sanger, 25, a student at Birmingham University, who won four swimming golds and set four world records for the cerebral palsy category.

Now he is considering retiring from swimming, but he is ready to give up sports. He would like to take up bobsledding or the luge for the winter Olympics. "I prefer to do it headfirst," he said. "I look forward to what's out and about 15 somersaults in the snow. I just want to do it."

CYCLING

Tables are turned on stranded Poles

From Peter Bryan, Goulburn, New South Wales

The lottery that is so often road racing yesterday saw England — among others — the beneficiary, and the hitherto invincible Poles the losers in the 1,200-mile Commonwealth Bank tour.

Mieczyslaw Karłowicz and Slawomir Krawczyk, sixth and eighth overall at the start of the 85-mile stage from Wollongong to Goulburn, missed the vital break when the field split in two and were to finish 28 minutes behind.

The England team was extended to the full in protecting the third place overall of Harry Lodge but there was no panic when the Saturday rider's reserve punctured after 30 miles. Colin Sturges was with him and waited and then Ben Luckwell and Mark Gornall dropped.

Lodge was lucky to regain when he did because a further three miles along the road came the attack, leaving the Poles stranded in the second of the two groups which formed.

Mark Gornall, a veteran off from international competition when he broke his back in a farm accident last February, spread the news of the Poles' difficulty through his leading group and urged everyone to

work together to ensure that they never bridged the gap.

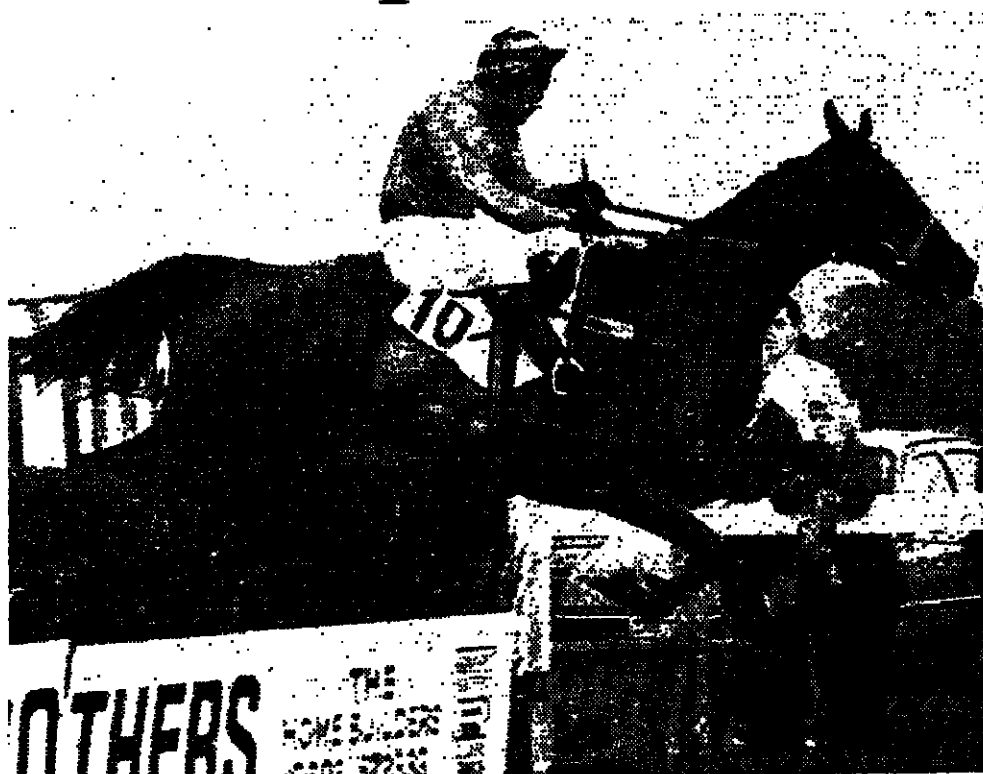
"It was time they had a taste of their own medicine," Gornall said, referring to Poland's lack of mercy to others. Gornall, having got the bunch going like an express train, was quick to respond to Bob Rasmberg when the Dutchman jumped clear 20 miles from the finish.

The pair stayed away, sharing the pace to the last half mile when Gornall sat in behind Rasmberg, saving himself for the sprint. But, once the 250 metres to go sign, he delayed his attack only to find to his disgust that the finish line was imminent around a sharp right-hand corner. He had to settle for second place, the highest position by an English rider in the race.

Lodge came in with the leading group 20 seconds behind and remains third overall.

RESULTS: 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 24th, 25th, 26th, 27th, 28th, 29th, 30th, 31st, 32nd, 33rd, 34th, 35th, 36th, 37th, 38th, 39th, 40th, 41st, 42nd, 43rd, 44th, 45th, 46th, 47th, 48th, 49th, 50th, 51st, 52nd, 53rd, 54th, 55th, 56th, 57th, 58th, 59th, 60th, 61st, 62nd, 63rd, 64th, 65th, 66th, 67th, 68th, 69th, 70th, 71st, 72nd, 73rd, 74th, 75th, 76th, 77th, 78th, 79th, 80th, 81st, 82nd, 83rd, 84th, 85th, 86th, 87th, 88th, 89th, 90th, 91st, 92nd, 93rd, 94th, 95th, 96th, 97th, 98th, 99th, 100th, 101st, 102nd, 103rd, 104th, 105th, 106th, 107th, 108th, 109th, 110th, 111th, 112th, 113th, 114th, 115th, 116th, 117th, 118th, 119th, 120th, 121st, 122nd, 123rd, 124th, 125th, 126th, 127th, 128th, 129th, 130th, 131st, 132nd, 133rd, 134th, 135th, 136th, 137th, 138th, 139th, 140th, 141st, 142nd, 143rd, 144th, 145th, 146th, 147th, 148th, 149th, 150th, 151st, 152nd, 153rd, 154th, 155th, 156th, 157th, 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Champion Scudamore races to record half-century



Peter Scudamore safely clears the last on novice chaser Wolfhangar at Fakenham yesterday to better the previous record for the fastest half-century in National Hunt racing. The previous best was set by John Francome on November 9, 1984. Then came an agonising wait before Wolfhangar, who had

stormed clear by 12 lengths, was confirmed the winner. The stewards held a long inquiry into the last-fence fall of Biggie, who appeared to be rather squeezed for room by the winner. But the stewards decided that no interference had taken place and it was thumbs up for Scudamore as the

celebrations began. The 30-year-old was surrounded in the winner's enclosure by his supporters congratulating him, including the Fakenham executive, who provided champagne. Somerset trainer Martin Pipe, who himself is on the 48-winner mark, provided 43 of Scudamore's 50 successes.

The four times champion jockey said: "I must express my gratitude to Martin Pipe and Charlie Brooks, especially Martin, who has made the record possible for me. I appreciate what a lucky person I am to be riding for him. The records don't mean a lot to me, but I love being champion jockey

and I love riding good horses. And I would love to win a Grand National and a Gold Cup." Corals make Scudamore only an even money chance to better Jonjo O'Neill's record of 149 winners in a season, set 11 years ago. Scudamore added: "It's a dream and I've obviously got a great

chance, but you never know in this game. It could all have ended out there on the course." Steve Smith Eccles was also in excellent form at the meeting, landing a near 33-1 double on Peer Prince and Kyoto, his only two rides.

(Photographs: Stephen Markeson)

Johnson's coach given indefinite suspension

By John Goodbody

The Canadian Track and Field Association (CTFA) yesterday suspended Ben Johnson for two years and his coach, Charlie Francis, indefinitely in the latest move in the Olympic drugs scandal.

Johnson, who was stripped of the Olympic 100 metres gold medal when he was found positive for taking anabolic steroids, the body-building drug, has already been suspended from competition for a minimum period of two years by the International Amateur Athletic Federation.

The latest ban applies to domestic athletics and will take effect, retrospectively, from September 24, 1988, the day Johnson finished first in the 100 metres and then gave a positive test.

It is particularly significant that Francis has been suspended (although with pay), because he has been the coach to Johnson and a number of other leading Canadian athletes, Paul Dupre, the CTFA president, said yesterday that there will also be investigations into statements by Canadian Olympic team members about the use of banned performance-enhancing drugs and the failure of two runners, Courtney Brown and Mark McKoy, to complete their events in Seoul.

Dupre said that the suspension was ordered to remove Francis from the centre of the controversy, without passing judgement on the allegations. Francis, in his only public

comment on the affair, has denied being responsible for use of the banned substances by Canadian athletes, and vowed to conduct his own investigation into claims that Johnson was the victim of sabotage. Preliminary recommendations of the CTFA inquiries are expected to be given within eight weeks.

The investigations will be separate from a Royal Commission of Inquiry which will be conducted by Charles Dubin, the Associate Chief Justice in Ontario.

Johnson has remained in seclusion at his family's home, apart from giving a brief press conference on October 4 at which he denied knowingly taking any illegal substances. He has been reported at various times as saying that he was given injections, drank ginseng, and suspected that a drinking bottle may have been "spiked" with drugs.

Johnson, who won the 1987



Johnson: due in court

100 metres world championship in a world record 9.83 seconds, has been advised by his lawyers not to talk to reporters or members of his former track team. This includes Francis, his coach of 11 years, and also his personal physician, Dr Mario Astaphan.

A Toronto drugs manufacturer has said that it sold quantities of stanozolol, traces of which were found in the urine of Johnson, to Dr Astaphan. Sales records have been sent to the Ontario College of Physicians and Surgeons, which is also investigating the doctor's involvement in the Johnson case.

Angela Issajenko, a Canadian colleague of Johnson who is also coached by Francis, was reported as saying earlier this month: "Ben takes steroids. I take steroids. No one takes steroids without knowing they are taking them."



Francis: banned

Issajenko, the Canadian 100 and 200 metres champion, said that Dr Astaphan, the doctor for Johnson and other athletes at the Mazda Club in Toronto, "gives them to us". She said that she knew Johnson has been receiving drugs from Astaphan since 1984.

Later she denied the statements, saying that she had been misquoted, adding: "The Association cannot suspend me. I have not tested positive for anything. The only person they can suspend is Ben, because he tested positive."

Johnson has a further problem today. He is due to appear in court after being charged with assault and the possession of a dangerous weapon, a starter's pistol, by Toronto police. If found guilty, Johnson faces a jail term, fine or probation.

The charges followed an investigation into a motorist's complaint that a man in a Porsche pointed a handgun at him as he drove along a road in Toronto. The motorist, whose name was withheld, provided the licence number of the Porsche, which matched Johnson's car.

Officers went to Johnson's home in Scarborough, near the scene of the alleged incident, and found a starter's pistol in the sprinter's car. Johnson admitted driving the car, but denied pointing the gun at anyone. A starter's pistol can only fire blanks. Neither Johnson nor his lawyer would comment after the charges.

Newcastle expected to ask for Royle

By Ian Ross

One telephone call to the Boundary Park home of Oldham Athletic, the second division club, could end Newcastle United's search for a manager.

United's attempts to find a successor to Willie McFaul, who was dismissed on October 10, have proved fruitless, but it became clear yesterday that Oldham are expecting an official approach for their manager, Joe Royle.

The former Everton and England international forward is one of the most respected managers outside the first division and is believed to head a shortlist of candidates drawn up over the weekend by Gordon McKeag, the Newcastle chairman.

McKeag has announced that he intends to seek formal permission to approach, within the next few days, an as yet unnamed manager. That man is likely to be Royle.

Although Royle, aged 39, has only recently signed a three-year contract at the club he joined six years ago, he would welcome the opportunity to further his career. It is unlikely that a sympathetic board of directors would stand in his way.

"A decision will be taken if and when Newcastle make any approach," David Brierley, the Oldham vice-chairman, said yesterday.

If Royle is refused permission to talk to Newcastle, a second attempt will be made to persuade Howard Kendall, the former Everton manager, to return to English football from Spain, where he is in charge at Athletic Bilbao.

Chesterfield, the third division club, have received more than 40 applications for their managerial vacancy. The club's directors hope to appoint a successor to Kevin Randall by early November.

John Silk, the West Bromwich Albion chairman, has denied a newspaper story that the Midland club is to approach Manchester United captain, Bryan Robson, to take over as their player-manager. "There is no way we are going to approach Robson. We have not been in touch with Manchester United and have no plans to do so," Silk said.

Lawrenson in talks over Saunders sale

By Louise Taylor

Mark Lawrenson and Brian Horton are to have urgent talks with Kevin Maxwell, the chairman of Oxford United, this morning on a point of principle which could yet produce their resignations as manager and assistant manager of the club. The issue in question is the £1 million transfer of Dean Saunders to Derby County on Sunday evening, of which Lawrenson and Horton were not informed until a late stage, when they were helpless to prevent the move.

The agreement was forged between Kevin Maxwell, the chairman of United, and his father, Robert, who holds the corresponding position at Derby. Lawrenson, who was installed at the Manor Ground following his retirement as a player with Liverpool last March, will meet his chairman at the headquarters of the

United. "I have been trying for a long time to bring him to Derby and I'm sure that Maurice Evans was fed up with me pestering him when he was Oxford manager," Cox nurtured the hope that the Welsh international can form a partnership with Paul Goddard to rival that enjoyed by O'Hare and Hector during the 1970s.

More immediately, Saunders, who has 11 Welsh caps and 54 League goals to his credit, will be charged with the task of improving upon Derby's paltry goal return this season, which has yielded only four goals in eight League outings.

Aged 24 and costing £215,000 more than Mark Wright, Derby's previous record signing, who arrived from Southampton 14 months ago Saunders will be expected to reproduce the form which brought him 20 first division goals last season and seven so far this.

He is determined not to allow his remarkable leap in valuation to become a psychological millstone. "I'm proud to be associated with some of the other players who have also been valued at one million pounds but I'm not going to think about the price tag."

During the summer Trevor Hebbard, valued at £350,000, took Saunders's path with

More football, page 55.

Mirror Group in London where it is expected that he will tender his resignation unless he receives assurances of more consultation and part of the one million pounds to be available to replace Saunders. For his part, Kevin Maxwell will insist that Lawrenson honours his three year contract. However, if he does step down, Maurice Evans, his predecessor, will assume temporary control of team affairs.

Meanwhile, Saunders, who leaves Oxford 19 months after joining them from Brighton for just £60,000, described how the transfer was executed inside the space of 30 minutes.

"It all came out of the blue," Saunders said. "Arthur Cox saw me play on Saturday and the next thing I knew I was talking to him. Less than half an hour later I had signed."

While the transfer may please Oxford's bank manager, supporters are angry that arguably their two best players have switched Maxwell houses to join Derby in recent months.

During the summer Trevor Hebbard, valued at £350,000, took Saunders's path with

After the match Colin Suggitt, the Newcastle caretaker manager, was upset that Alan Gunn, the referee, and his linesman had failed to spot the incident but yesterday Russell Cushing, the club secretary, said: "We've decided to make no comment, the match officials didn't see it and anyway it's in the past now."

"Michael will be seeing a specialist in the next day or two and, depending on the outcome, he could even play against Middlesbrough on Wednesday, a lot of footballers play on with broken noses."

Politicians' golf shows spirit of Agincourt

By Tim Yeo

(Conservative MP for Suffolk South)

The lengths to which politicians will go in the service of their country were illustrated last weekend when a handful of British parliamentary golfers crossed the Channel to do battle with their French counterparts.

In the minds of those who took part, the occasion resembled a kind of golfing Agincourt. The 19-strong team, from both Houses and different parties, heard reports during the Channel crossing that they might face as many as 40 French opponents.

However, the result of the contest was scarcely in doubt. "Stimmed by memories of childhood history lessons in which the British invariably prevailed against immense odds, the whole team became imbued with a determination to vanquish the foe."

The match got under way at Hardeley Golf Club—a golfing jewel set amid trees and attractive holiday homes—with the opening drive taking place before a dauntingly large crowd.

In the absence of scoreboards, it was impossible to follow the progress of team-mates, but those who struggled to find form drew solace from the lines of Arthur Hugh Clough:

*It may be in you smoke concealed,
Your comrades chase e'en now the flier,
And, but for you, possess the field.*

Honour satisfied on both sides

After four and a half hours, the exhausted players returned to the clubhouse with the final match, a titanic struggle between M Mitterand (Jr) and the member for Suffolk Central, ending with putting taking place on the floodlit 18th green.

No result was declared at the end of play and all scorecards were fed into a computer. Suspense persisted throughout an excellent and lengthy dinner, at which Sir Paul Bryan spoke in French.

A subsequent speaker, who used English, suffered the misfortune of having the punctuation of his joke wrongly translated, thereby producing titters from the mainly French audience, bewildered by the British sense of humour.

After dinner came the prize-giving. Possibly fearful that from its grave the ILEA might accuse them of elitism, the organizers arranged for every competitor to receive a prize. This did not belittle the spectacular success of Michael Lord, the individual winner, whose net score provoked churlish comments about his handicap from some colleagues.

Finally, Monsieur le Président (of golf, not the Republic) announced that by choosing the four best scores by parliamentarians on each side, the conclusion was a narrow victory for Les Anglais.

Thus was honour satisfied on both sides and a magnificent silver cup gained for the mother of parliaments.

*O noble English! that could entertain
With half their forces the full pride of France.*

Honeyghan aims to unify title

Lloyd Honeyghan, the World Boxing Council (WBC) welterweight champion, has been handed a \$3 million (about £1.7 million) incentive to unify the world welterweight title.

Honeyghan's defence against the former World Boxing Association (WBA) champion, Marlon Starling, was yesterday confirmed by the matchmaker, Mickey Duff, and will take place at Caesars Palace, Las Vegas, on January 28.

The promotion will also feature the Colombian, Tomás Molineras, defending his WBA title against another former champion, Mark Breland.

Honeyghan can realize a multi-million dollar purse if he is successful against Starling, as the winner has been promised a clash with either Molineras or Breland in the Spring. If Honeyghan emerges unscathed, a bout with the world lightweight champion, Julio Cesar Chavez, will take place later in the year.

The South African boxer, Brian Mitchell, arrived in London yesterday to defend his WBA junior-lightweight title against Jim McDonnell, of Britain, at Elephant and Castle Leisure Centre on November 2. Mitchell, who will make his sixth defence of the title, said he was worried by the prospect of anti-apartheid demonstrations.

Henry Armstrong, the only boxer to hold three world titles in separate weight divisions at the same time, has died, aged 75, of heart failure after a lengthy illness.

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Jahangir in fighting form

Seattle (Reuters) — The top seed, Jahangir Khan, of Pakistan, took a step towards regaining his world No. 1 ranking when he beat Chris Dittmar, of Australia, the second seed, 15-11, 15-6, 15-10, in the £23,000 United States Open squash rackets championship.

"People who said I might be at the end of my career made the motivation [to regain the No. 1 ranking], the world second-ranked player said.

The Pakistani had lost just one game — to the eighth seed, Phil Kenyon, of Britain, in the quarter-finals — on his way to the final of the 32-player event, while Dittmar advanced to Sunday's showdown without dropping a game.

Dittmar took an 8-6 lead in the opening game, but Jahangir picked up his game, whipping crosscourts past Dittmar's outstretched racket to win five of the next seven points and take an 11-8 lead.

The Australian levelled the score as he redropped a Jahangir drop into the nick and capitalized on a rare error by his foe. Jahangir then took

control, winning the next four points and the first game.

"It was vital for me to win that first game," Dittmar said. "I did a hell of a lot of work and was under pressure the whole time."

Dittmar appeared dejected after dropping the opening game and Jahangir needed just nine minutes to go 2-0 up. The Australian put up more of a fight in the final game but Jahangir slammed a cross-court just out of the Dittmar's reach on the first of five match points for the victory.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Reducing the odds

Vienna (Reuters) — A plan that could halve the number of entrants allowed to take part in World Cup Alpine ski races next season has been approved by the International Ski Federation.

An Austrian Ski Association spokesman said yesterday that the FIS Alpine committee had approved a recommendation to allow only group one competitors and a maximum of four additional entrants per country to take part. The plan, still to be ratified by the main committee in Zurich on November 12, is designed to encourage greater media interest.

Skoiff victory

Horst Skoff beat his Austrian compatriot, Thomas Muster, the top seed, to win the Vienna grand prix tennis tournament on Sunday. Skoff, unseeded, lost the first set but with his opponent affected by a stomach upset went on to win 4-6, 6-3, 6-4, 6-2.

Triple success

Chiba, Japan (AFP) — Masashi Ozaki, of Japan, claimed his third successive title on Sunday when he came from behind to win the Bridgestone Tournament by two shots from Isao Aoki at the Sodegaura Country Club.

Ozaki, aged 41, finished with a 69, including six birdies, for a 15-under-par total of 273.

Extra time

An extra day has been added to the RAC Rally, which starts from Harrogate on November 20, involving 180 entrants. It will be run over five days on a 1,750-mile circuit of Britain.

"By adding to the route it gave us much more scope to plan a tough but fair course for the drivers," Malcolm Neill, the clerk of the course, said.

Split loyalty

Glamorgan supporters in West Wales are hoping to reverse a decision giving Cardiff nearly twice as much cricket as Swansea next summer, and are aiming to collect the 50 signatures needed to call an extraordinary meeting.

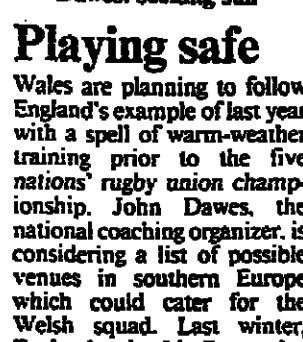
Dawes: seeking sun

Playing safe

Wales are planning to follow England's example of last year with a spell of warm-weather training prior to the five nations rugby union championship. John Dawes, the national coaching organizer, is considering a list of possible venues in southern Europe which could cater for the Welsh squad. Last winter, England trained in Portugal.



Dawes: seeking sun



Playing safe